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Weekend



President Obama seized the bully pulpit Thursday.

Pitchman: Obama sells his policies in online town hall | **3**

Penalty Kill: Md. OKs bill to limit capital punishment | **11**



Comeback: Wizards' Arenas to make his return on Saturday | **18**

ENTERTAINMENT



Ani-mazing:

Monsters vs. Aliens' has a crisp look, good energy and an all-star cast.

>> **13-17**

Fargo Races to Beat Record Flooding



UNCHARTED WATERS: Volunteers shore up a sandbag dike as the Red River continues to rise on Thursday in Fargo, N.D. Dire predictions called for the river to crest at a record-high 43 feet this weekend. "We need all the help we can get," said Mayor Dennis Walaker as any remaining optimism faded.

U.S. to Bolster Afghan Forces

Obama to dispatch 4,000 trainers to help battle al-Qaeda

WASHINGTON | Concerned about the faltering war in Afghanistan, President Obama plans to dispatch thousands more military and civilian trainers on top of the 17,000 fresh combat troops he's already ordered, people familiar with the plan said Thursday.

Obama, who is set to lay out his revamped strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan on Friday, also will call for increasing aid to neighboring Pakistan as long as its leaders confront militants in the border region.

Several sources told The Associated Press the strategy includes 20 recommendations for countering a persistent insurgency that spans the two countries' border, including sending 4,000 U.S. trainers to try to increase the size of the Afghan army. "It is an integrated military-civilian strategy," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in Monterrey, Mexico. "We are convinced that the most criti-

cal underpinning of any success we hope to achieve, along with the people and government of Afghanistan, will be looking at where civilian trainers, aid workers, technical assistance of all kinds can be best utilized."

In broad terms, Obama will define U.S. objectives as eliminating the threat from al-Qaeda to undermine or topple U.S.-backed elected governments or to launch attacks on the United States, its interests and its allies, the sources said. ANNE GEARAN (AP)

♦ **Spy charges:** Afghanistan's top intelligence official accuses Pakistan of aiding Taliban with attacks | Page 7



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FRIDAY
65° 47°



SATURDAY
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SUNDAY
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TODAY: Warmer and partly sunny after a morning fog burns off | **38**

eyeOpeners

FRAUD

'I Now Pronounce You, Well, Nothing at All, Actually'

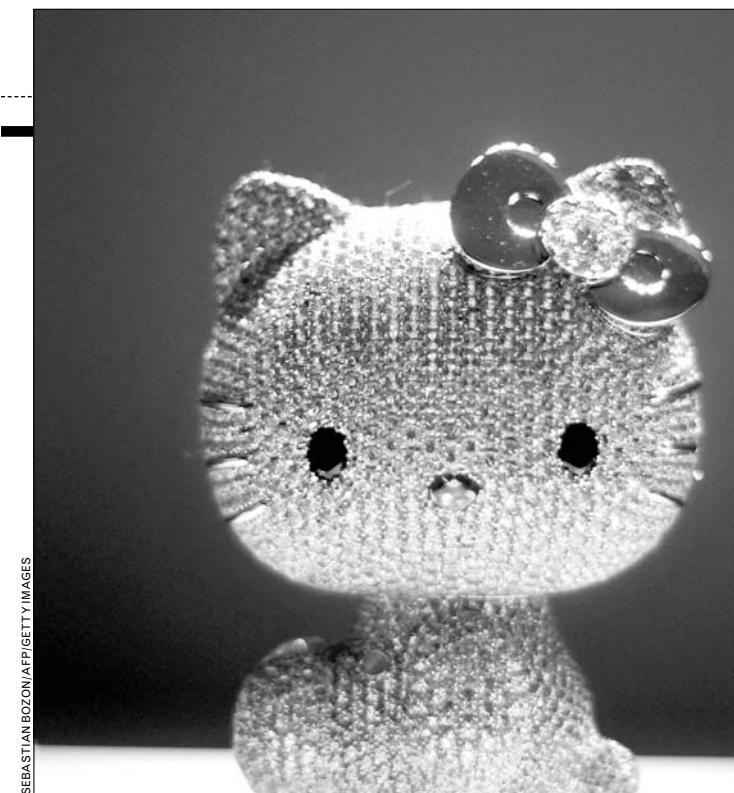
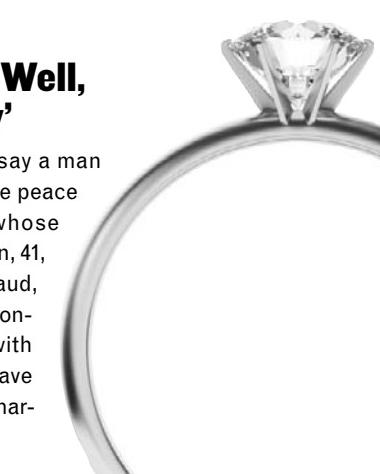
Sheriff's officials in Sedona, Ariz., say a man impersonated an elected justice of the peace and performed several weddings, whose legality are now in doubt. Allen Elfman, 41, was arrested Tuesday on charges of fraud, forgery, criminal impersonation, impersonating a public servant and tampering with a public record. Sheriff's detectives have found at least four couples who were married by Elfman. (AP)

ANTIQUES

Biggest Challenge: Finding Phone Booth

Twenty-two students at St. Mary's College of California have done something their predecessors famously did 50 years ago: cram into a phone booth. Teams competed to fit as many bod-

ies as possible into a phone booth on the campus green Wednesday, a half-century after Life magazine published a photograph of 22 St. Mary's students stuffed into a phone booth, a popular college stunt in the 1950s. Current students matched the number in the 1959 image, though they failed to break the campus record of 24, set in 1984. (AP)



SEBASTIAN BOZON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

RESEARCH ON ALCOHOL

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TOO LATE

150 Years Overdue

Cowpokes now have a good reason to gather 'round the campfire and break out the guitar — New Mexico

has an official state cowboy song. Gov. Bill Richardson signed legislation Wednesday declaring New Mexico the first state to adopt an official cowboy song: "Under the New Mexico Skies" by Syd Masters, a 42-year-old

musician from Edgewood. The true-to-tradition tune, with a rolling melody and catchy lyrics, features guitar and acoustic bass with a twangy male voice that breaks into three-part harmony for the chorus. (AP)

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TOYS

Hello, Pricey

Sure, Hello Kitty has always been sort of cute, but is she almost \$170,000-cute? That's the price of this blingy version of the icon, which is on sale in Basel, Switzerland, at the Baselworld watch and jewelry show this week. Apparently, Miss Kitty was born 35 years ago, and in celebration of her birthday, she is adorned in diamonds, white topazes, pink sapphires and pearls. That's a slight upgrade from the standard song and cake routine.

(EXPRESS)





UNDERFOOT: Watch out for Fluffy and Fido! Cats and dogs are a factor in more than 86,000 serious falls each year, according to the first U.S. government study of the issue. The majority of falls cause only minor injuries, according to the report from the Centers for Disease Control.

Nation

In Brief



Pedestrians shield themselves from falling snow on Thursday in Denver.

DENVER

Major Spring Snowstorm Brings Colo., Wyo. to a Halt

A major spring snowstorm dumped at least a foot of snow across the Colorado-Wyoming state line on Thursday, canceling hundreds of flights, shutting down schools and making roads treacherous. Wyoming authorities reported at least 33 people were injured in three pileups involving about 50 vehicles on Interstate 25, leading Colorado officials to close the highway for more than 40 miles south of Cheyenne. (AP)

COTTONWOOD, ARIZ.

Bobcat Walks Into a Bar, Attacks 2 Customers

A bobcat has attacked three people in the central Arizona community of Cottonwood, including two men who were bitten by the animal after it wandered inside a bar. Officers called to the Chapparel Bar arrived to find the bobcat in the parking lot, where they shot and killed it. It wasn't clear how seriously the victims were wounded. (AP)

Obama's Event Is Nothing but Net

White House sells its policies in an online town hall meeting

WASHINGTON | President Obama seized the bully pulpit Thursday and reprised the best of his acclaimed campaign skills in an unprecedented Internet town hall from the White House — a direct sales pitch for Americans to get behind his \$3.6 trillion budget and be patient as he tries to right the tottering economy.

After an opening statement and declaring, "This isn't about me; it's about you," Obama took up a microphone and strolled the ornate East Room, playing to an audience of 100 invited guests and what the White House said were an estimated 67,000 people watching him in cyberspace.

Obama said his budget proposal would put the country on a path to



President Obama holds a town hall-style meeting in the East Room of the White House Thursday. It was the first online town hall meeting done in the White House.

"a recovery that will be measured by whether it lasts, whether it endures; by whether we build our economy

on a solid foundation instead of an overheated housing market or maxed-out credit cards or the sleight

of hand on Wall Street; whether we build an economy in which prosperity is broadly shared."

Obama's Republican opposition — which he pointedly did not mention Thursday — has fought his budget proposal, broadly declaring it a spending recipe for national bankruptcy.

Not surprisingly, the Internet questioning dovetailed with the president's key projects: universal health care, improved education, energy independence and the range of promises made in the White House campaign.

In a lighter moment, Obama noted there had been heavy support for a question about legalizing marijuana as a means of boosting the economy and creating jobs.

"The answer is, no, I don't think that is a good strategy to grow our economy," Obama quipped. The in-house audience tittered.

STEVEN R. HURST (AP)

Pa. Juvenile Convictions Overturned

Judge allegedly took kickbacks to send kids to detention centers

ALLENTOWN, PA. | Pennsylvania's highest court on Thursday overturned hundreds of juvenile convictions issued by a corrupt judge accused of taking millions of dollars in kickbacks to send kids to private-



Former county judge Mark Ciavarella pleaded guilty to fraud last month.

ly owned detention centers.

The state Supreme Court ruled that former Luzerne County president judge Mark Ciavarella violated the constitutional rights of youth offenders who appeared in his courtroom without lawyers between 2003 and 2008.

"Today's order is not intended to be a quick fix," Chief Justice Ronald Castille said. "It's going to take

some time, but the Supreme Court is committed to righting whatever wrong was perpetrated."

In one of the most egregious cases of judicial corruption ever seen, prosecutors charged Ciavarella and another Luzerne County judge, Michael Conahan, with taking \$2.6 million in payoffs to put juvenile offenders in private lockups.

The judges pleaded guilty to fraud last month and face sentences of more than seven years in prison.

MICHAEL RUBINKAM (AP)



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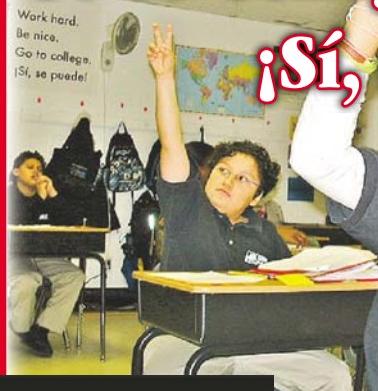
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Nation



PRISON FOLLIES: Officials were forced to evacuate a prison in Clallam Bay, Wash., after an inmate started a fire trying to heat up snack sausages in his toilet.

Geithner: Oversight Flawed

Treasury secretary pushes for overhaul of U.S. regulatory system

WASHINGTON | The United States on Thursday unveiled a sweeping overhaul of the financial system in an effort to prevent a repeat of the banking crisis that has toppled once-mighty institutions and wiped out trillions of dollars.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told lawmakers that the changes are needed to fix the flaws exposed by the current financial crisis. The goal is to repair a system that has proven "too unstable and fragile," he said.

"Over the past 18 months, we have faced the most severe global financial crisis in generations," Geithner said in testimony to the House Financial Services Committee.



“The days when a major insurance company could bet the house on credit default swaps with no one watching ... must end.”

TREASURY SECRETARY TIMOTHY GEITHNER

tee. "To address this will require comprehensive reform. Not modest repairs at the margin, but new rules of the game."

The administration's proposal, which will require congressional approval, would represent a major expansion of federal authority over the financial system. It would impose tougher standards on financial institutions judged to be so big that their failure would represent a risk to the entire system.

It also would extend federal regulations for the first time to all trad-

ing in financial derivatives, exotic financial instruments such as credit default swaps that were blamed for much of the meltdown.

The plan also includes a measure to give the administration expanded powers to take over financial institutions, such as insurance companies and hedge funds.

"The days when a major insurance company could bet the house on credit default swaps with no one watching and no credible backing to protect the company or taxpayers must end," Geithner said. (AP)



A morning tornado in Magee, Miss., on Thursday destroyed this mobile home and crushed two vehicles near the building.

Twister Tears Through Miss. Town

Community stunned by morning tornado; no deaths are reported

MAGEE, MISS. | A fierce storm system kicked up a devastating tornado that injured 20 people in a tiny southern Mississippi town and scattered thunderstorms across the South, leaving a trail of ripped-up rooftops, shattered mobile homes and downed power lines and trees.

There were no immediate reports of deaths, but Mayor Jimmy Clyde in the south-central town of Magee said stunned residents were still surveying the destruction from a pre-dawn twister that smashed through dozens of homes and apartment duplexes, and even toppled a church and cemetery tombstones.

"This is like reliving Hurricane Katrina all over again, and that's no fun," Clyde said as office phones rang constantly with reports of

storm-damaged neighborhoods and lost power and water service. "We got hit back then, and we've really been hit now."

The twister smashed through south-central Mississippi's piney wood forests around 1:30 a.m. as severe thunderstorms rumbled across the Southeast. Power blackouts affected tens of thousands of Louisiana residents, and authorities reported damage to some Alabama homes. HOLBROOK MOHR (AP)



COWBOY COVER: The first detailed statewide tree count in Texas history is headed toward this conclusion: Texas is No. 2. The Texas Forest Service said Wednesday initial results of the inventory indicate that the state has 60 million acres of forestland, second only to Alaska.

Nation

Docs Baffled by Kids' Kidney Stones

Condition that usually affects adults is now a problem for children

CHICAGO | Doctors are puzzling over what seems to be an increase in the number of children with kidney stones, a condition some blame on kids' love of cheeseburgers, fries and other salty foods.

Kidney stones are usually an adult malady, one that is notorious for causing excruciating pain — pain worse than childbirth. But while the number of affected children isn't huge, kids with kidney stones have been turning up in rising numbers at hospitals across the country.

At Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the number of children treated for kidney stones since 2005



Matty Billemeier rides his bike near his home in Doylestown, Pa., on Tuesday. Matty is just 8 years old but already has had four bouts with painful kidney stones.

has climbed from about 10 a year to five patients a week now, said Dr. Pasquale Casale.

Johns Hopkins Children Center in Baltimore, a referral center for children with stones, used to treat

John Hopkins Children Center is getting calls about kidney stones in kids every week.

one or two youngsters a year 15 or so years ago. Now it gets calls about new cases every week, said kidney specialist Dr. Alicia Neu.

Dr. David Hatch at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., near Chicago, also has seen an increase. His youngest patient was a cranky 8-month-old girl whose mother found a pea-size kidney stone in her diaper.

Kids' stones have been the talk

of recent pediatric kidney specialists' conferences, said Dr. Uri Alon, director of the bone and mineral disorders clinic at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

So far, the only evidence is anecdotal. But Alon is involved in research trying to determine whether the increase is real and not just the result of greater awareness and better ways of detecting stones.

Eating too much salt can result in excess calcium in the urine. In children, most stones are calcium-based, and Alon said their eating habits, plus drinking too little water, puts them at risk. Plenty of water is generally recommended to help prevent kidney stones.

Matty Billemeier is just 8 years old but already has had four bouts with stones, the first in 2007, and the last a year ago in April. He was first stricken in his first-grade class; the school nurse, his parents and even the emergency room doctors all thought it was his appendix. (AP)

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—Hillary Rodham Clinton, secretary of state, on Mexico's soaring drug-related violence, Thursday.

World

Pakistani Spies Accused of Attacks

Afghan intelligence chief says operatives help Taliban militants

KABUL | Afghanistan's intelligence chief accused Pakistan's spy agency of helping Taliban militants carry out attacks in his country, highlighting one of the biggest challenges facing the Obama administration as it prepared Thursday to launch a new strategy for the Afghan conflict.

Many Taliban militants fled

to Pakistan's border area from Afghanistan after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, finding a sanctuary that allowed them to mount cross-border attacks that have destabilized Afghanistan and jeopardized efforts to rebuild the country.

The U.S. and Afghanistan have repeatedly called on Pakistan to sever all links with the Taliban, which came to power in Afghanistan in the 1990s with significant support from Pakistan's military intelligence agency.

Afghanistan's intelligence chief,

Amrullah Saleh, told parliament Wednesday that the spy agency aids the Taliban leadership council in the Pakistani city of Quetta headed by the group's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar. He said the council sends militants into Afghanistan to attack Afghan and international forces.

The New York Times reported that Pakistani spy operatives provide money, military supplies and strategic planning guidance to Taliban commanders, with evidence of the ties coming from electronic sur-

veillance and trusted informants. The report cited American, Pakistani and other security officials who spoke anonymously because they were discussing confidential intelligence information.

Talat Masood, a retired general and security analyst, told AP Television that he thinks Pakistan's military intelligence agency may have links in Afghanistan. But he said that does not necessarily mean it is supporting the Taliban or is giving them material assistance.

SEBASTIAN ABBOT (AP)

Israel Disputes Claims of Gaza Civilians' Deaths

JERUSALEM | The Israeli military on Thursday disputed Palestinian claims that most of the people killed in the recent Gaza war were civilians, claiming the "vast majority" of the dead were Hamas militants.

Palestinians say hundreds of civilians were killed by Israel's three-week offensive.

Maj. Avital Leibovich, an army spokeswoman, said Thursday that the military had determined that a total of 1,166 Palestinians were killed in the operation. It found that 709 were Hamas militants, while 295 were civilians, including 89 minors and 49 women. It was unclear whether another 162 men who died were militants or civilians. (AP)

BANGKOK, THAILAND | 30,000 PROTEST GOVERNMENT



SEEING RED: Anti-government demonstrators scuffle with riot police outside a government building in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday. About 30,000 supporters of former leader Thaksin Shinawatra surrounded the government's main office to demand its dissolution amid the country's worst economic crisis in a decade. No major injuries were reported.

In Brief



Mourners carry the coffin of a man who was killed in a car bombing in Baghdad.

BAGHDAD

Car Bombing Kills at Least 20 People on Bustling Street

A car bomb exploded Thursday along a bustling commercial street in a mostly Shiite area of north Baghdad, killing at least 20 people in the third major attack in the capital this month. Witnesses said the vehicle — believed to be a yellow Peugeot — was parked along a street near a bus stop, a food market and a hospital in the Shaab district when it blew up around noon. (AP)

BRUSSELS

Pirates Seize 2 Ships Within 24 Hours Near Somali Coast

Pirates armed with machine guns hijacked a Norwegian chemical tanker Thursday off the coast of Somalia, the ship's owner said, an attack that came less than 24 hours after a smaller Greek-owned vessel was seized in the same area. The U.S. 5th Fleet, which patrols the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden, confirmed both hijackings. (AP)

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8 | EXPRESS | 03.27.2009 | FRIDAY

World

Billionaire Becomes 2-Time Space Tourist

American paid \$35M for repeat cosmic cruise on a Russian capsule

BAIKONUR, KAZAKHSTAN | A Russian capsule blasted off with a deafening roar on Thursday to carry U.S. billionaire Charles Simonyi into space for his second cosmic cruise.

Ice shards broke away as the Soyuz rocket with a Russian-American crew lifted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome facility over northern Kazakhstan.

Simonyi, 60, a software designer who paid \$35 million for his second Soyuz trip — which would make him the first two-time space tourist — showed a thumbs-up sign to capsule TV cameras as his 28-year-old



Charles Simonyi waves before boarding the Soyuz spacecraft on Thursday.

wife, Swedish socialite Lisa Persdotter, cried with worry.

Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka and American astronaut Michael Barratt joined Simonyi in the cramped vehicle, in which they will sit for nearly two days before docking Saturday with the international space station, orbiting about 220 miles above the Earth. DAVID NOWAK (AP)

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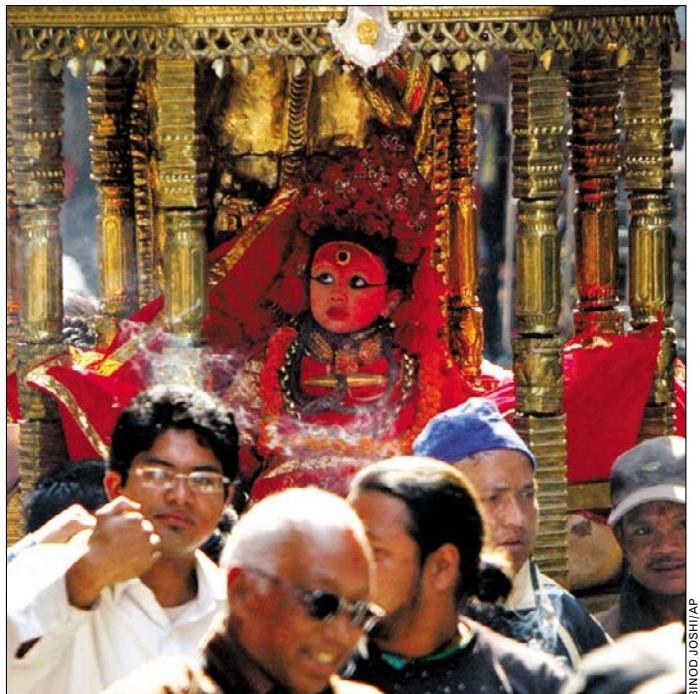
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CHEW ON THIS: Dubai officials announced this week they would crack down on those who spit the juice from a popular Asian chew in a broader effort to stem behavior deemed offensive. The betel leaf — a mild stimulant that is commonly chewed in many Asian countries — promotes a reddish saliva.

World

KATHMANDU, NEPAL | VIP TREATMENT



DIVINE YOUTH: Mateena Shakya, 4, who is revered by locals as a living goddess, is escorted to a horse race festival in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Thursday.

N. Korea Positions Rocket

U.S. says April launch would violate a ban by the United Nations

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | North Korea's positioning of a rocket on its east coast launchpad ratcheted up tensions Thursday with Washington, which warned that pushing ahead with the April launch would violate a United Nations ban and have serious consequences.

Pyongyang says the rocket is designed to carry its Kwangmyong-song-2 satellite into orbit, an accomplishment timed for the eve of the inaugural session of North Korea's new parliament and for late founder Kim Il Sung's April 15 birthday.

But regional powers suspect the North will use the launch to test the delivery technology for a long-

PYONGYANG'S 'GIFT'
Complicating the diplomatic situation is North Korea's detention of two U.S. journalists.

→ Euna Lee and Laura Ling, of Current TV, allegedly entered North Korea illegally last week.
→ Pyongyang could use the Americans as bargaining chips, said North Korea expert Koh Yu-hwan of Dongguk University, calling their detention an "unexpected gift" for Pyongyang.

range missile, one capable of striking Alaska, or may even test-fire the intercontinental Taepodong-2 missile itself. Keeping speculation alive, North Korea reportedly has kept the top of the rocket covered.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton warned that the

launch would be a "provocative act" that could jeopardize the stalled talks on supplying North Korea with aid in exchange for dismantling its nuclear program.

The U.N. Security Council banned North Korea from any ballistic activity in 2006.

"We intend to raise this violation of the Security Council resolution, if it goes forward, in the U.N.," Clinton said Wednesday.

North Korea responded by threatening "strong steps" if the Security Council criticizes the launch, and suggested it will reverse nuclear disablement carried out so far if sanctions are levied. Any challenge to its launch would mean a nullification of disarmament deals, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency. JEAN H. LEE (AP)

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Money

GM Employees Jump Ship

7,500 workers have signed up for early retirement, buyouts

DETROIT | About 7,500 General Motors Corp. workers — roughly 12 percent of the automaker's U.S. hourly work force — have signed up to take buyout and early retirement incentives to leave the company, GM said Thursday.

Also, Chrysler LLC said Thursday it would extend its deadline to entice blue-collar workers to leave. The old deadline was Friday.

GM offered \$20,000 cash and a \$25,000 voucher to buy a car to all of its 62,400 hourly U.S. employees in an effort to further trim its blue-collar work force.

Most of those who chose to leave took early retirement offers, said a person familiar with the numbers who did not want to be identified because the breakdown had not been made public. There were very few who took the buyouts.

The deadline to decide was Tues-



Autoworkers leave the first shift at Chrysler's Warren Truck Assembly in Warren, Mich. Blue-collar workers at General Motors and Chrysler are mulling buyout offers. CARLOS OSORIO/AP FILE

day, and many of the workers waited until the last minute to turn in their paperwork, the person said. The workers have seven days from the date they turn in the paperwork to rescind their decision, so many will have to decide by March 31.

GM has enough workers on lay-

off to fill all 7,500 vacancies created by the departures, the person familiar with GM's plans said. But if demand increases and more workers are needed, the company could hire new people at a new lower-tier wage of about \$14 per hour, the person said. KIMBERLY S. JOHNSON (AP)

New York Times Orders Pay Cut For Most Staff

NEW YORK | The New York Times Co. is cutting pay for most employees by 5 percent for a nine-month period and laying off 100 people.

The company's flagship newspaper reported on its Web site Thursday that the cuts will hit most non-union workers and run from April through December. Employees will receive 10 days off in return.

The Times reported that union employees have been asked to take the cut voluntarily to avoid potential layoffs at the company. Job cuts will come in the business operations of the New York Times. (AP)

Unemployment Claims Keep Up Record Pace

652,000 Americans applied for jobless aid last week, agency says

WASHINGTON | For a 10th-straight week, the number of people who are continuing to claim jobless benefits increased, fresh evidence that the labor market remains weak despite other hopeful signs that the recession may be nearing the bottom.

New claims for unemployment benefits last week rose to a seasonally adjusted 652,000, up from the previous week's revised figure of 644,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The total number of people claiming benefits jumped to 5.56 million, a ninth-straight record and the highest total on records dating back to 1967.

The dismal job news is one indicator of the overall econom-

RECESSION STAT

**THERE WAS A
6.3%**

decrease in the U.S. gross domestic product at the end of 2008, the worst showing in a quarter-century for the nation's economy.

ic pain Americans have endured. The Commerce Department said Thursday that the nation's gross domestic product shrank at a 6.3 percent annual pace at the end of 2008, the worst showing in a quarter-century.

GDP is the value of all goods and services produced within the U.S. and is the best barometer of the country's economic fitness. (AP)



BY THE NUMBERS:
Consumers snapped up surprising numbers of electronics and gadgets in the fourth quarter, giving Best Buy a 10 percent boost in sales. (AP)

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The amount, in thousands of dollars, that Ward 8 D.C. Council member Marion Barry owes the federal government in back taxes, federal authorities say. Barry hasn't made a payment on undisclosed taxes owed to the D.C. government since July 2008.

Local

ARLINGTON, VA. | SPRING SHOWERS



TRACY A. COON/WBUR/TWP

WELCOME WEATHER: A scooter on Wilson Boulevard in Arlington, Va., collects rain Thursday, ending a drought in the region recently. The weather prompted the cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin to begin blooming.

Metro Board Rejects Fare Increase

WASHINGTON | Metro has proposed making changes to 42 bus routes as the transit agency seeks to close a \$29 million budget gap.

The board voted Thursday to hold public hearings on the service cuts in the coming weeks, with the changes possibly taking effect by the end of June.

The proposals include eliminating 10 lines, while another 12

lines could have some route segments eliminated. Other lines could see larger gaps between bus arrival times.

Some Metro board members had wanted a 5 cent fare increase to be considered, too — but D.C. officials rejected that proposal, pointing out that the transit system already increased fares recently. (AP)

Md. to Limit Death Penalty

Gov. O'Malley to sign measure for tighter capital case restrictions

The Maryland House of Delegates voted 87-52 Thursday to approve some of the nation's tightest restrictions on death penalty cases, sending a bill to Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, who has indicated he will sign it.

The measure will limit capital cases to those with biological or DNA evidence, a videotaped confession or a videotape linking the defendant to a homicide. Those are among the steepest challenges faced by prosecutors in the 35 states that have a death penalty.

O'Malley has said he considers the bill "a step forward," although

LACK OF PUNISHMENT

→ Maryland has had a de facto moratorium on capital punishment since December 2006, when the state's highest court ruled that its regulations on lethal injection had not been properly adopted.

it falls short of the repeal bill that he sponsored this year and pledged to do everything in his power to pass.

Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg, D-Baltimore, told his colleagues that the bill would significantly reduce the possibility of wrongly executing people.

Opponents of the bill said the measure would do much more than that.

"You have cleverly and successfully killed the death penalty in Maryland," said Delegate Patrick L. McDonough, R-Baltimore County, who argued that the bill's restrictions are so strict that prosecutors will not be able to bring capital cases.

Maryland's action comes as several states are rethinking the death penalty. This month, New Mexico became the third state in recent years to abandon capital punishment.

Lawmakers in Virginia bucked the trend this year by expanding capital punishment to apply to criminals who assist in homicides, even if they don't pull the trigger, and to cover those who kill fire marshals or auxiliary police officers. The District does not have a death penalty.

JOHN WAGNER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Thursday, March 26

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	2-0-5
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	0-6-6
Mid-day DC 4	1-1-0-4
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	1-6-2-3
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	9-16-17-23-24
Daily 6 (Wed.)	3-10-15-29-30-33 Bonus: 4
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	2-7-27-28-35 (7)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	3-3-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	4-2-4
Mid-day Pick 4	9-2-7-0
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	3-7-3-6
Match 5 (Wed.)	14-23-26-29-32 Bonus: 11
Lotto (Wed.)	4-5-10-21-24-34

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	0-3-4
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	7-5-2
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	7-9-4-2

Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	1-8-7-2
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	13-20-22-25-28
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	4-7-13-27-33
Win for Life (Wed.)	1-7-16-18-32-37

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	10-20-23-47-54 (26)
Power Play	2X

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Entertainment Weekend



GREAT HEIGHT: Reese Witherspoon voices Ginormica, a regular-woman-turned-giantess who finds herself under attack.

High-Energy Humor

A choice cast makes 'Monsters vs. Aliens' unfalteringly fun

FILM | Classic creatures from the 1950s get a high-tech makeover, with a healthy amount of attitude, in the 3-D animated film "Monsters vs. Aliens."

The Blob, the Creature from the Black Lagoon, the Fly — they're all here, led by the 50-Foot Woman, who's now 49 feet, 11 inches as voiced by the diminutive Reese Witherspoon. (Animation is a great fit for her, and for both the crispness and sweetness in her voice.)

Far from being menacing, they're optimistic misfits who just want to be loved and understood.

Rather than destroying each other, they're loyal friends who've been trapped together as government test subjects, only to be unleashed on the world when an alien invasion requires their unique powers.

It's an enormously clever concept — no pun intended — with a choice voice cast. Who else but Seth Rogen could play a lovable blue blob named B.O.B., who always has a smile on his gelatinous face? Will Arnett essentially revives his hilariously cocky-but-clueless "Arrested Development" character, Gob Bluth II, as the half-fish, half-ape Missing Link, and Hugh Laurie lends his rich voice to the British mad scientist Dr. Cockroach.

Just seeing the words "and Stephen Colbert as the President" dur-

Far from being menacing, they're optimistic misfits who want to be loved and understood.



B.O.B. (voiced by Seth Rogen) and the Insectosaurus do the monster mash.

ing the opening titles is good for a laugh, especially given the comic's faux run for the White House from his home state of South Carolina.

And the laughs keep coming

Who else but Seth Rogen could play a blue blob named B.O.B.?

steadily from there. Directors Rob Letterman ("Shark Tale") and Conrad Vernon ("Shrek 2"), working from a script from about a half-dozen people, maintains a high energy throughout, although the explosive climax feels bombastic and repetitive. Far more effective is the way this motley crew comes together.

Witherspoon's Susan is a simple woman from Modesto, Calif., who's about to marry pompous TV weatherman Derek (Paul Rudd). On their wedding day, as Susan dreams of honeymooning in Paris and Derek obsesses over an anchor audition in Fresno, a meteor hits Earth, exposing Susan to galactic glop that turns her into a giant with a shock of white hair.

The military, led by Gen. W.R. Monger (Kiefer Sutherland), scoops her up and sticks her in a holding cell along with B.O.B., Link, Dr. Cockroach and a goofy, 350-foot bug named Insectosaurus. They also rename her Ginormica, which gives her a self-esteem boost when she needs it most.

An alien attack, led by the megalomaniacal Galaxhar (Rainn Wilson), forces the monsters into the streets of San Francisco. A showdown between Susan and Galaxhar's prime weapon, a clunky retro robot, is beautifully detailed.

While bright and colorful, the 3-D effects in these situations never really inspire a sense of awe. Rather, they provide a tangible sense of depth but fall short of completely immersing you.

The movie's also playing in IMAX 3-D — maybe that's a more satisfying sensory experience, one that makes you feel as though you truly are on another planet. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



At Sticky Rice, you can sample Asian cuisine and tater tots, and get rowdy.

I am heading up a bachelor party. While we have a plan for the later evening, dinner alludes us. We want to do sushi, and we are heading to H Street afterward.

There's Sei, which is new and wicked-good. You could also look at Asia Nine. And we should probably mention that you could also just grab sushi on H Street. Sticky Rice totally rules.

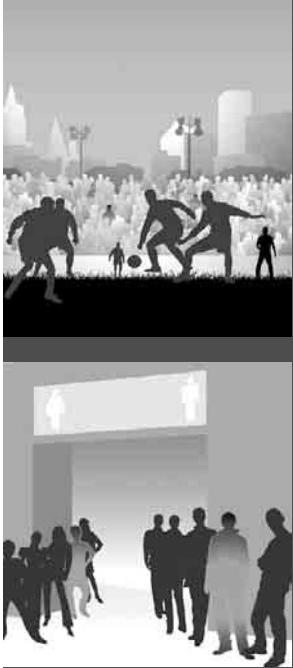
→ *Sei*, 444 7th St. NW; 202-783-7007. (Archives-Navy Memorial)
→ *Asia Nine*, 915 E St. NW; 202-629-4355. (Archives-Navy Memorial)
→ *Sticky Rice*, 1224 H St. NE; 202-397-7655.

It's my sister's 25th birthday, and she wants to go dancing to house music. She used to love Five. Can you suggest something similar?

Muse, an intimate little three-story lounge on Sixth Street, would be my pick on Thursday or Friday nights, and you could try Fur on Saturday — Glow is one of the best trance nights going, and bookings have been really strong lately.

→ *Muse Lounge*, 717 6th St. NW; 202-842-9800. (Gallery Place)
→ *Fur Nightclub*, 33 Patterson St. NE; 202-842-3401. (New York Ave.)

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline



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Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

What's the most annoying complaint about audiences at D.C. shows? That nobody dances, of course. It's a tired complaint, but a valid one most of the time. But it holds absolutely no truth at a Nomo show. When the eight-piece Michigan band last brought its Afrofunk-jazz-psych rock fusion to the Rock and Roll Hotel, the moving and shaking was out of control — in a good way. There were some Elaine Benes-level moves being shown off on the dance floor, but nobody was judging. Nomo's funkiness was simply too supreme to ignore. There wasn't a hint of pretension in the room; the musicians onstage were lost in the music, delivering sweaty jam after sweaty jam while the people in the crowd did what came naturally, even if it made them look like total fools. And because of that, it was one of the best shows of 2008. Ra Ra Rasputin and Funk Ark open at the **ROCK AND ROLL HOTEL**.

The productions and DJ sets of All Good Funk Alliance reflect the ecumenical implications of the group's name. Whether the tools are classic analog drum machine loops, samples of dusty breaks, slap bass or brass riffs, it's all good as long as people's hindparts are moving on the dance floor. The sound the group experimented with back in 1999 is now a template used by many who came after them. Everybody Loves Music brings the boys to **EYEBAR** tonight along with Omar Faison and Joe L.

SATURDAY

Deleted Scenes is a band to admire. The local foursome have been at it for a few years and have always gone about things the right way — constant fliering outside of clubs (not just MySpace and Facebook bulletins), self-booked tours that took them all over the country and a commitment to improving their songs. Even as the band's live shows got better over the past couple years, it was still surprising to hear how well the sound came together on



DANCE WITH SOMEBODY: More specifically, with Nomo at the Rock and Roll Hotel.

their debut album, "Birdseed Shirt." How has the band's hard work been rewarded? Why, with a well-deserved rave on Pitchfork and a Saturday-night headlining gig at the **BLACK CAT** with excellent national touring acts the Drones and Pretty and Nice. Good job, guys.

This really is the week when culture and drinking collide. We have the **CORCORAN**'s Artini, at which 12 of the city's brightest mixologists — including Chantal Tseng of the Tabard Inn, Gina Chersevani of PS 7's and Owen Thompson of Bourbon — will be shaking up special cocktail creations inspired by student works at the Corcoran's College of Art and Design. Wander around, sample the drinks, grab a snack from the buffet, dance to house and techno music spun by DJ Heather Femia, and take time to explore the new "Maya Lin: Systematic Landscapes" exhibition. Tickets are \$100 for non-members, which is steeper than many events we feature in this column, but we feel that the drinks, music and scene are worth the price. Dress "creative cocktail festive" for this event, though Fritz will probably just wimp out and

wear his tux and claim that's "festive." Get tickets early; none will be sold at the door.

Speaking of nightlife mainstays, the monthly Bliss dance party celebrates its 100th event tonight at the **BLACK CAT**. The format has changed a bit since DJ Will Eastman launched the "international pop dance party" at Metro Cafe in September 2000, with a growing focus on club bangers and dance floor-filling remixes instead of the original indie pop and new wave that was the night's original MO, but Eastman should be commended for having a night that's only grown bigger and better over the years. For tonight's big 1-0-0 — a lofty status that few monthly dance events ever achieve — Eastman is hosting what seems like just another excellent Bliss. Guest DJ Jackie O, of local nights \$weat\$hop and Kids, will kick off the show. As always, doors open at 9:30 p.m., and admission to the all-ages party is \$5.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at washingtonpost.com/gog

Entertainment

Weekend



HE SCORED DIGITS: Nicolas Cage and a list of numbers unlock the mysteries of the future in the cheesy thriller "Knowing."

Now Playing

CORALINE (PG, 100 minutes) The movie, adapted from Neil Gaiman's enormously successful book of the same name, follows 11-year-old Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning), whose wish to replace the adults in her life leads to a nightmarish experience in a parallel universe. Director-writer Henry Selick doesn't reach for the kind of universality that would enrich the movie. It's a shame, because Fanning's performance is the movie's most emotionally persuasive element. (dt)

CONFessions OF A SHOPAHOLIC (PG, 112 minutes) Is Rebecca Bloomwood the embodiment of irresponsible consumerism? Absolutely, which makes the timing of the film either genius or fatal, but two things weigh in its favor: One is Isla Fisher; the other is that the film is oblivious to its own gravitas. JOHN ANDERSON

DUPLiCITY (PG-13, 125 minutes) Tony Gilroy's romantic espionage caper pits two pharmaceutical companies against each other. Burkett & Randle, led by Howard Tully (Tom Wilkinson), has discovered a cream that will revolutionize the industry. Equikrom, led by Richard Garsik (Paul Giamatti) needs to steal the secret to that lotion. And there's romance, of sorts. Behind the scenes, Claire Stenwick (Julia Roberts) and Ray Koval (Clive Owen) work their nefarious magic, he on Equikrom's side, she on Burkett & Randle's. But are they both really working for each other? And can they really trust each other? Luckily,

Owen and Roberts both get to play off Giamatti, who overacts gleefully. It's smart, it's for grown-ups and it lets Julia Roberts laugh, if just once. (dk)

THE GREAT BUCK HOWARD (PG, 87 minutes) Buck Howard (John Malkovich) is a vaudevillian mentalist who gets through each day by reliving his best moments from 30 years ago, even though the rest of the world has moved on. Colin Hanks plays Buck's assistant, who caters to his strange needs and helps maintain his boss' delusion that he is still a beloved personality. A problem is the dull Hanks, who would not have gotten this role on his own merits (his father is Tom, who produces and acts in the film). DAN ZAK

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13, 132 minutes) As the protagonists rehearse the movie's core philosophical questions, they wind up making a text of the subtext that lies just under the surface of most romantic comedies: romantic complaint. Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin) throws herself headlong into every relationship she's in. Janine (Jennifer Connolly) has a husband, Ben (Bradley Cooper), who is distant when they talk about what color to paint a room, while Beth (Jennifer Aniston) has a boyfriend, Neil (Ben Affleck), who refuses to get married. It's the movie equivalent of a quick mani-pedi, with pleasures that go just about as deep and last just about as long. (AH)

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R, 105 minutes) Paul Rudd is a phone book actor, meaning he's just one of those guys who could stand there and read a phone book and we'd laugh. Just watch him in the first few scenes of his most recent role, when his character, Peter Klaven, listens in on a raunchy conference call between his fiancee, Zooey (Rashida Jones),

and her best girlfriends. Or listen as he makes up fake guy-talk when he goes on a first man-date with Sydney Fife (Jason Segel), the shambling Lost Boy who Peter befriends. Only Rudd could mine comic gold from standing there and saying things like "joben" and "totes magotes." It's a thin premise, one that features the usual quota of jokes involving masturbation, projectile vomiting and flatulence. But is it worth it? Thanks to Rudd and Segel (and some terrific cameos), totes magotes. (AH)

THE INTERNATIONAL (R, 116 minutes) Clive Owen plays Interpol agent Lou Salinger, a gruff, obsessed loner who for years has been on the trail of a corrupt bank. Now he's working with the Manhattan district attorney's office, specifically a comely assistant D.A. named Ella Whitman, played in an unobjectionable if undistinguished performance by Naomi Watts. Directed by Tom Tykwer ("Run Lola Run") with sober forthrightness, the film is in many ways a throwback to the monochrome urban thrillers of the 1970s, with the added and topical twist of having a diabolical financial institution at its center. (AH)

KNOWING (PG-13, 110 minutes) John Koestler (Nicolas Cage), comes across a 50-year-old list of numbers that somehow seems to have predicted — down to the precise date and location — every major disaster of the last half-century, plus a few that haven't happened yet. His problems — alcohol abuse, the recent death of his wife — make him sound unhinged when he tries to warn people of the coming apocalypse. Yes, the film is creepy, at least for the first two-thirds or so, in a moderately satisfying, if predictable, way. But the narrative corner into which

Continued on page 16

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Weekend Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 15

this movie, directed by Alex Proyas ("I, Robot"), paints itself as a simultaneously silly and morbidly depressing one. Well before the film neared its bittersweet conclusion, I found myself knowing — yet hardly able to believe — what was about to happen. (MO) **THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT** (R, 109 minutes) A smashmouth introduction to this remake of Wes Craven's 1972 film establishes Krug (creepy Garret Dillahunt from TV's "Deadwood") as the leader of

a group of psychos on the lam: brother Giles, girlfriend Sadie and son Justin. At the other end of the social spectrum is the Collingwood family: father John, an ER doctor, mother Emma and daughter Mari. They're on vacation at their lake house. Mari and her friend Paige run into Justin, who says he has some excellent marijuana. Paige persuades a reluctant Mari to drive them to his place for a little fun. That decision eventually brings the two families together. This version makes significant changes to the original plot, changes that water down the central idea, rendering it more palatable for mainstream audiences. MIKE MAYO **MADEA GOES TO JAIL** (PG-13, 103 min-

utes) Take Madea out of a Madea film, and you have straightforward melodrama. Minus the supersized, sharp-tongued incendiary matriarch, played in drag by Tyler Perry, the film is a decently made weeper, with the familiar cast of characters from Perry's repertoire: betrayed spouses, fallen women, men struggling to do right and conniving, social-climbing villains in very fine threads. But add Madea into the mix, and Perry's dramas take a strange, postmodern twist, mixing genera and tone, and leaving reality in uncertain circumstances. In Tyler Perry's newest outing, a big-hearted prosecutor (Derek Luke) struggles to save an old friend (Keshia Knight Pulliam) from

life on the streets, only to be thwarted by his jealous fiancee (Ion Overman). Madea's perennial struggles with the law grow more serious, and she finds herself doing hard time. (PK)

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG, 98 minutes) Screenwriters Matt Lopez and Mark Bomback have retooled the Alexander Key novel that provided fodder for the original 1975 film, creating a vehicle for Dwayne Johnson. Johnson is a sly delight here, playing an ex-con named Jack Bruno, who has traded in his NASCAR dreams to drive a cab in Las Vegas. In between trundling sci-fi geeks to a UFO convention, Jack picks up a pair of very anxious blond tweens

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named Seth (Alexander Ludwig) and Sara (AnnaSophia Robb). Once Seth halts a pursuing SUV with his breastplate and Sara levitates Jack's tip change, it becomes clear that Jack is dealing with two strays from outer space who have crash-landed in the desert. With government agents hot on his trail, Jack endeavors to spirit his young charges back to their ship. Johnson (the wrestler formerly known as "the Rock") lifts the script above its conventional cat-and-mouse stratagems with his buoy-

ant wiseacre timing. (js)

TWO LOVERS (R, 108 minutes) In James Gray's quiet, unadorned romantic drama, Joaquin Phoenix is his old, clean-shaven self as Leonard Kraditor, a troubled young man who has moved back in with his parents in Brighton Beach. Torn between a gorgeous if unstable shiksa goddess (Gwyneth Paltrow) and the nice Jewish girl (Vinessa Shaw) his mom and dad are clearly crazy about, Leonard ultimately has to decide which self to express: the romantic but doomed artist or the settled but thwarted family man. (ah)

WATCHMEN (R, 163 minutes) The film, like the 1986 graphic novel by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, follows the torment-



WE LOVE YOU, TOO: Paul Rudd is endearingly awkward in the film "I Love You, Man."

ed daily lives of a ragtag band of retired superheroes caught up in a plot to save the Earth, and themselves, from the machinations of a self-appointed savior of mankind, who may not have mankind's best interests at heart. The movie exposes the glaring problem with the original material: The dialogue stinks. But when it marches in lockstep with the tedious plot, the only watch that matters in "Watchmen" is the one on your wrist. (pk)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S
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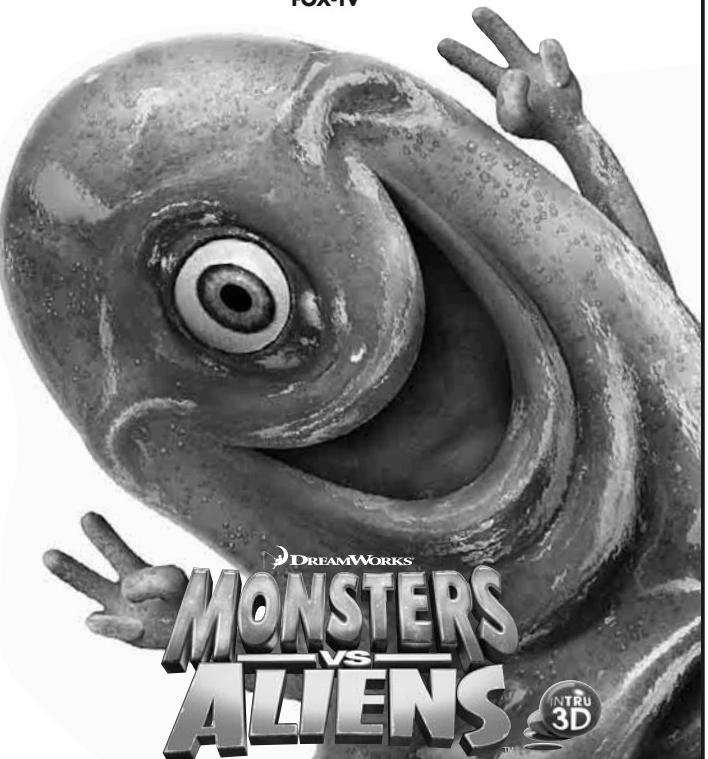
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Sports Weekend



TERPS WOMEN'S HOOPS
How sweet it is: Maryland looks to remain dominant as it takes on Vanderbilt on Saturday with a spot in the Elite 8 on the line. | **20**

TV Lineup



No. 1 seed Louisville faces the lowest seed left in the tourney: No. 12 Arizona.

Arenas' return gives Wizards something to build off for next year

WIZARDS | If the talk is true, the Wizards' rebuilding process starts Saturday night.

That's when the beleaguered Gilbert Arenas — he of the three knee surgeries in 18 months — takes the floor for his first regular-season game after signing a six-year, \$111 million contract.

But as great as Arenas is — something that's been reinforced this year, as his absence has been the main factor in the destruction of the Wizards' playoff-level squad — his return has nothing to do with trying to win the last handful of games this season.

“The plan is still holding. T-minus 48 or something. So, we’re still on schedule for launch, I guess.”

ED TAPSCOTT, WIZARDS COACH

Agent Zero doesn't even have to look sharp. He doesn't have to shoot 35 percent from 3-point line or even 40 percent from the floor.

What the Wizards' brass will be looking for most is that Arenas can cut comfortably; that he can stay with his man on defense; that he has any bit of the presence and confidence that allows someone to shoot a 28-footer early in the shot clock because he truly thinks it's his team's best chance of scoring.

“The plan is still holding,” Wizards interim coach Ed Tapscott told

friday

5:30 P.M. The NCAA hockey tournament begins with No. 1 seed Denver taking on No. 4 seed Miami (Ohio) in the West Regional. ESPN2

7 P.M. The Capitals can clinch a playoff berth with a victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning. CSN

7 P.M. Louisville vs. Arizona tips off the night's NCAA tournament doubleheader, and the best news is the start times are staggered, so we'll be able to see any great finishes. CBS

saturday

2 P.M. The University of Maryland women face Vanderbilt for a spot in the Elite 8 in the NCAA basketball tournament. ESPN

4:30 P.M. The East and West Regional champions will be crowned as half the Final Four will be completing during the Elite 8 of the men's basketball tournament. CBS

7 P.M. The Washington Wizards welcome back Gilbert Arenas, who will play his first game of the season against the Detroit Pistons. CSN

9 P.M. The U.S. plays El Salvador in a World Cup qualifier. ESPN2

sunday

1:30 P.M. NASCAR invades Martinsville, Va., for the Goody's Fast Relief 500. FOX

2 P.M. The final two spots of the men's Final Four will be punched. CBS

7 P.M. The Wizards face the Indiana Pacers. CSN

8 P.M. Interested in a good NBA game? The San Antonio Spurs face the New Orleans Hornets. ESPN



Gilbert Arenas, who said this week that he's retired from blogging, is hoping that is the only big change when he returns to action Saturday night against the Pistons.

\$111 MILLION

The value of the six-year contract Arenas (the team's biggest star) signed with the Wizards in the offseason.

0

Games he's played since.



DOPING | Star treatment? With an apology to Congress, baseball and the kids who looked up to him, All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada received a sentence of one year of probation Thursday for misleading Congress about the use of performance-enhancing

drugs. Tejada faced possible prison time, but U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay issued a sentence of one year of unsupervised release, 100 hours of community service and a \$5,000 fine. Kay waived drug testing often required of other convicts on probation and said he wouldn't restrict the Houston Astros player's travel. (AP)

WORST WATCH

The Wizards made the playoffs the last four seasons, but a rash of injuries has them chasing what may now be an unreachable goal: 19 wins. That's how many they need to avoid having the worst season in franchise history, which started in 1960 in Chicago. Here's a look at some of the roughest seasons in the teams' nearly five decades of play:

SEASON	TEAM	RECORD	PCT
1960-61	Chi. Packers	18-62	.225
1966-67	Balt. Bullets	20-61	.247
1994-95	Wash. Bullets	21-61	.256
2000-01	Wash. Wizards	19-63	.235
2008-09	Wash. Wizards	17-56	.233

The Associated Press on Wednesday. “T-minus 48 or something. So, we're still on schedule for launch, I guess.”

Assuming he returns, the few games Arenas plays in will determine the approach Washington will take in the offseason. While the NBA lottery determines who'll get the first pick, the Wizards (17-56) are guaranteed a choice in the top 10, meaning they should get an additional starting-quality player.

If he doesn't fare well, however, the Wizards will have a large set of questions to answer. A superstar with injury-decreased powers can't sustain a team that's been built around him and is also significantly less-valuable on the trade market.

If that's what happens to Arenas, the Wizards are stuck with a seasoned squad that can probably make the playoffs but not get much farther. With complementary and All-Star starters alike who are all approaching their 30s, the Wizards' championship opportunity with this roster configuration will be at its peak the next few years. ERIC BRANDNER

There's a Storm Brewing

United faces setbacks, on and off the field, before home opener

UNITED | The clouds gathering ahead of D.C. United's 2009 home opener on Saturday night are not just on the radar.

Losing a late 2-0 lead in last weekend's tie in Los Angeles stung, especially since the penalty kick foul that ignited the Galaxy's comeback existed only in the ref's imagination. Veteran midfielders Santino Quaranta and Fred remain sidelined and now may be joined by defenders Devon McTavish and Greg Janicki, who are questionable after a gory head-to-head collision.

Forwards Jaime Moreno and Luciano Emilio, expected to spearhead an attack that coach Tom Soehn said "still has a lot to work on," contributed nothing. At least Moreno, still not fully fit after off-season surgery, can say he didn't play. Emilio has no excuse.

Longtime nemesis Chicago (1-0-0) is the foe on Saturday and may be as difficult to break down as the Prince George's County Council General Assembly committee, which this week voted to withhold preliminary support for a bill that would jump-start United's stadium hopes.

So, although D.C. (0-0-1) appears beleaguered rather than refreshed heading into what could be a rain-soaked home opener, there remain reasons to be optimistic. The draw



Forward Chris Pontius was a bright spot in D.C.'s 2-2 draw against the L.A. Galaxy last Sunday. United hosts the Chicago Fire in its home opener on Saturday night.

in L.A. can be viewed through a glass half-full — an undermanned side featuring five new players secured a road point and likely should have won. Midfielder Ben Olsen played 72 minutes on his tender ankles, four times more than he managed all of last year, and an untested defense held last season's highest-scoring team in check for more than 80 minutes.

Perhaps most promising was the performance of D.C.'s two first-round draft picks. Forward Chris Pontius

embarrassed the L.A. defense with his curling 62nd-minute effort. The assist went to former Terrapin midfielder Rodney Wallace, who demonstrated versatility and athleticism throughout his pro debut.

"It took me awhile to adjust. I had to do a little self-talk, kind of calm myself down," Wallace said in comments that may symbolize the state of his team. "The first game is out of the way, and now I can get into the groove of things."

BRIAN STRAUS

Jayhawks a Self-Made Team

Without most of title squad, Kansas coach is back in the Sweet 16

NCAA HOOPS | During his first year as a head coach, Bill Self's Oral Roberts team lost 18 games in a row, and he recalls thinking, "Maybe this isn't going to be as easy as I thought." He won only 10 games the next year. Then he stumbled to a 1-3 start the year after that. "I'd been thinking we would

find ways to trick people and win games," he said. "I realized real fast that players win games. That's when the light went on."

It hasn't dimmed since. After winning last year's NCAA championship, all five starters and the top seven scorers departed. Self had to incorporate eight newcomers into the mix. The Jayhawks were picked no higher than third and as low as fifth.

But with guard Sherron Collins and center Cole Aldrich reaching

star status and the others finding their roles, the Jayhawks brought home a fifth consecutive Big 12 regular-season title. Now they're back in the round of 16 for the third-straight year in what could be Self's finest coaching performance.

Players say Self changed very little from last year. "He's ridden us hard through tough times and through times we excelled," Aldrich said.

"He expects the best from us, and we try to do everything for him."

DOUG TUCKER (AP)



Kansas' Bill Self is a strong contender to win the national coach of the year title.

Swengali

WIZARDS | BY MATT SWENSON

Why Is Arenas Returning Now?

THE WASHINGTON WIZARDS can't do anything right — including being awful.

The team is bad — in fact, it's very bad. But with one month remaining in the season, the Sacramento Kings are pulling away in the NBA draft lottery sweepstakes.

The Wizards, with 17 wins, are two full games better than the Kings, who lost in Washington two weeks ago in a battle of the inept.

And now there is about to be a major talent infusion at Verizon Center.

Gilbert Arenas is scheduled to return — apparently, there is no crying wolf this time — on Satur-



SERIES HISTORY

MLS forgot to schedule a cupcake opponent for United's homecoming — Chicago (which took out FC Dallas 3-1 last weekend) is a nearly unanimous favorite to win the 2009 title and has dominated D.C. in important games between the clubs. This marks the fourth time United has opened its RFK slate with the Fire. D.C. is 1-0-2. Here's how the all-time series has gone for each team:

CHICAGO ON TOP:

19-15-10 All-time series
5-0-2 Playoffs

D.C. ON TOP:

14-13-7 MLS regular season

EVENLY SPLIT:

1-1-1 Other competitions

→ The Fire has eliminated D.C. from the MLS Cup playoffs three times in the past six years. It also upset United, 2-0, in the 1998 final.

→ In seven MLS playoff games against Chicago, D.C. has scored only two goals.

→ United's victory in last season's U.S. Open Cup quarterfinal was its first over Chicago in 11 tournament or elimination games.

Why? The season is lost and has been lost for quite some time.

day. If all goes well, he will finish the season on the court.

My question: Why?

The season is lost and has been for quite some time.

Arenas' knee is a precious commodity at this point. Risking it with nothing on the line — at least in regards to winning games — is dangerous and will also hurt the team's chances at the No. 1 pick.

Whether it is Avery Johnson or someone else, there will be a new coach next year. There will also be a high draft pick — hopefully, Oklahoma's Blake Griffin. In other words, it will be a new start for a new team. Arenas will have to determine his role with that group, not this injury-plagued squad.

An October return makes much more sense than this March surprise. If Arenas gets hurt again, another season will be lost.

But maybe this strategy makes sense for an organization that can't shoot straight.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

Weekend Sports

The Terps Take Command

Dominant UMd. stays focused on dominating opponents in tourney

TERPS WOMEN'S HOOPS | It was an inside joke.

Kristi Toliver said she was going to score 50 points and her teammate Marissa Coleman was going to pull down 20 rebounds.

Coleman didn't get the joke. The senior hit the boards with full force in Tuesday's second-round victory over Utah, finishing with 18 rebounds to go with her 18 points.

"She just about got it," Toliver said. "But don't forget about my two that I had."

Toliver may have had just two rebounds, but she added 17 points and four assists. And early on, as her shots fell consistently, softly through the net, it seemed she could have hit her 50-point mark if she had tried.

Aside from the first five minutes against Utah, No. 1-seed Maryland fully dominated each of its first two NCAA tournament games. They'll resume play Saturday in Raleigh, N.C., against fourth-seeded Van-



Marissa Coleman, left, and Maryland had no trouble disposing of Utah in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Next up is Vanderbilt in a Sweet 16 contest.

derbilt in the Sweet 16.

"I told the team in the locker room, 'It's a fun game when you're in command from start to finish,'" coach Brenda Frese said. "We were just really in sync in terms of each and every player, being led by our two special seniors to set the tone

and set the intensity early, but also all the key contributions that we had from every member on this team. We're just thrilled and excited to be able to advance and move on."

In addition, junior Demauria Liles had 12 points and 17

rebounds. ACC freshman of the year Lynetta Kizer had eight rebounds. Thus far in the tournament, Maryland has outmatched its opponents in both skill and will. Vanderbilt will present a bigger challenge.

“It’s a fun game when you’re in command from start to finish.”

BRENDA FRESE, MARYLAND COACH

ACC powerhouses North Carolina and Duke, another No. 1 seed, both fell in the opening rounds of the tournament, and the Terrapins are aware that such a fate could befall them with any misstep.

"If we don't play to our potential, if we back down to teams, they can beat us," Liles said.

But, she added, this team is led by Toliver and Coleman, both of whom were pivotal parts in the Terrapins' national championship run in 2006. They've been there.

"They just told us to stay composed and don't let anything rattle us," Liles said. "As long as they've got our back, we've got their backs and we should be good." DEREK TURNER

THE PRIDE OF THE SEC

Vanderbilt is the last Southeastern Conference team left in the women's NCAA tournament, leaving the Commodores to carry on the storied SEC tradition all by themselves.

For the first time in the 28-year history of the tournament, the SEC is down to one team after the opening weekend.

It's a low point for a conference that had seven teams in the field and has a proud tradition and eight national titles. Seven of its 12 schools have played in the Final Four at least once. There have been only three Final Fours without an SEC team. "We deserved everything we got in," Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb said. "It does surprise me this is the first that this has ever happened to the SEC. I think we're deeper, not as top-heavy." (AP)



Vanderbilt's Melanie Balcomb is the last SEC women's coach standing this year.

8

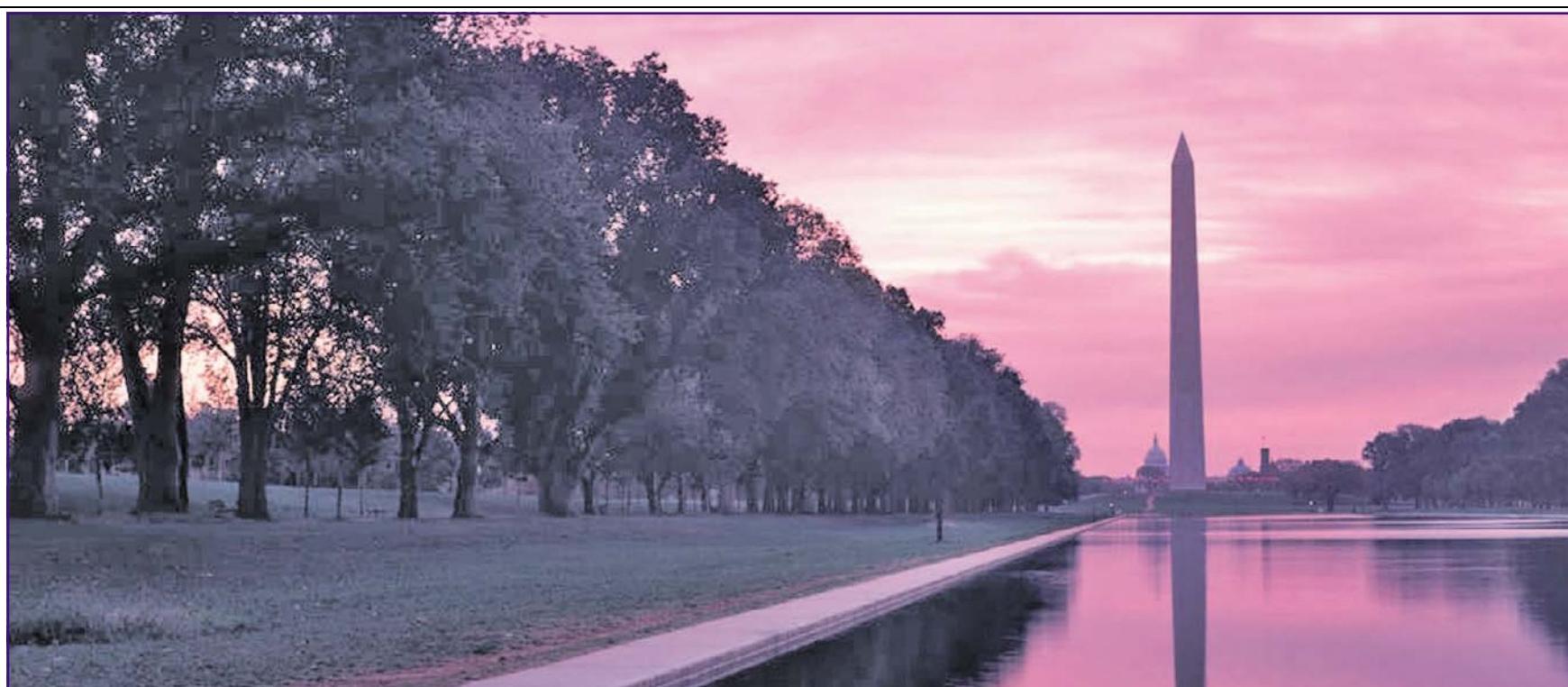
national titles for SEC teams; Vandy is the only one in the Sweet 16 this year.



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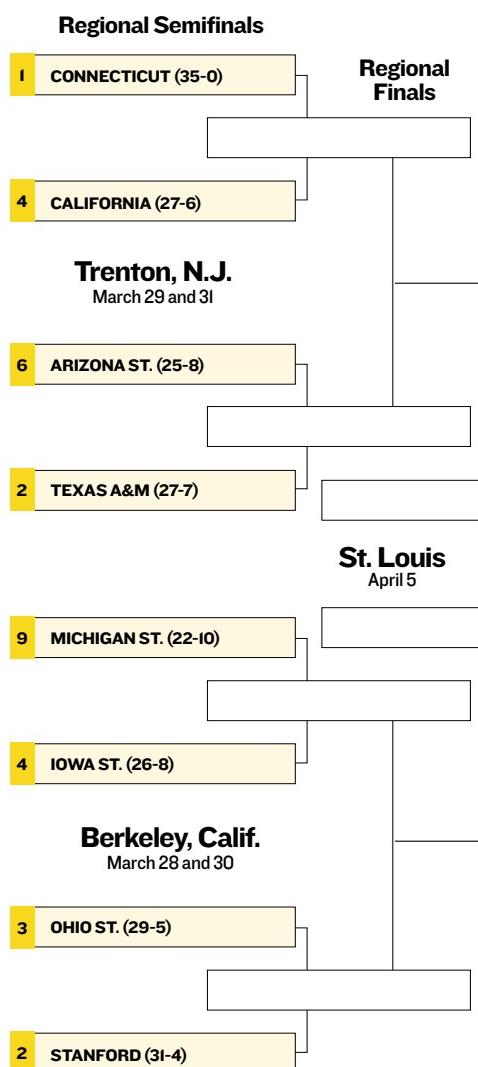
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A g

Sports | Weekend

2009 NCAA WOMEN'S BRACKET



Courtney Paris said she'll return her scholarship money if Oklahoma doesn't win the title.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Louis, April 7



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

THE SWEET 16



Maya Moore and the Connecticut Huskies are seeking an undefeated season.



KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

FRIDAY'S MEN'S MADNESS



SOUTH REGIONAL:

- No. 2 Oklahoma vs. No. 3 Syracuse, 7:27 p.m.
- No. 1 North Carolina vs. No. 4 Gonzaga, 9:57 p.m.

The games: Gonzaga looks to repeat its 2006 upset of North Carolina, which needs a healthy **TY LAWSON**, above, to return to the Final Four. The question in the other game is if Oklahoma can figure out how to attack Syracuse's vaunted 2-3 zone.



MIDWEST REGIONAL:

- No. 1 Louisville vs. No. 12 Arizona, 7:07 p.m.
- No. 2 Michigan State vs. No. 3 Kansas, 9:37 p.m.

The games: Arizona, which barely made the NCAA tournament, is now two wins shy of becoming the lowest seed to ever make the Final Four. Kansas versus Michigan State is the only Sweet 16 game to feature two coaches (Bill Self and **TOM IZZO**, above) with national titles.

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Weekend | Sports

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Capitals' Ovechkin, Penguins' Malkin fight for NHL MVP award

CAPITALS | Ever since Alex Ovechkin scored his 50th goal of the season last week against Tampa Bay, talk in the NHL world has centered almost exclusively on the celebration that ensued.

In a departure from hockey custom, Ovechkin dropped his stick and pretended to warm his hands with it to commemorate



V
7PM | CSN
Friday



the third season he has broken the 50-goal barrier during his four-year career.

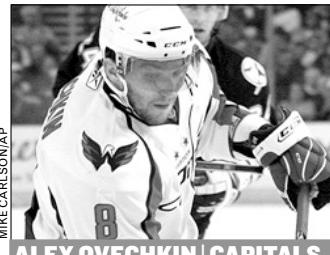
And as the Caps prepare for a return visit from Tampa at the Verizon Center Friday night, coach Bruce Boudreau is sick of speaking about it.

"I feel like Allen Iverson talking about practice. It's done; let's get over it," Boudreau said.

Lost amid the hoopla has been the growing sentiment that Ovechkin's pursuit of a second-consecutive Hart Trophy, the NHL's MVP award, could come down to the

A CASE FOR THE HART TROPHY

Two of the NHL's finest (including the Caps' Alex Ovechkin) are making serious arguments for the NHL's MVP award. How do they stack up?



ALEX OVECHKIN | CAPITALS

96 points

51 goals

10 game-winning goals

41 third-period points

52 points vs. playoff teams



EVGENI MALKIN | PENGUINS

106 points (leads NHL)

33 goals

4 game-winning goals

41 third-period points

46 points vs. playoff teams

Key fact: Ovechkin has scored 50 goals each in three seasons.

very last game.

Ovechkin took the award last year after leading the Caps on a frenetic run to the playoffs, and at the halfway mark this season, it appeared he was the heavy favorite again.

But up in Pittsburgh, the Evgeni Malkin case has been gaining steam, with the Penguins authoring their own frantic finish in the standings recently. Malkin currently leads the NHL in points (106).

Key fact: Malkin is the driving force behind the Penguins' playoff run.

Fellow Russian Sergei Fedorov said he would choose Ovechkin over Malkin because of the amount of "important" goals he has scored for the Caps this season.

Ovechkin has 10 game-winning goals to Malkin's four this year, although heading into Thursday night's games each had 41 third-period points.

"Of course, it's gonna be great if I win, but I don't think about it," Ovechkin said. "[Hockey] isn't about awards." **MARK GIANNOTTO**

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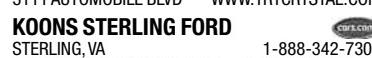
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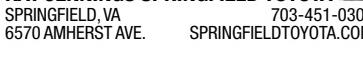
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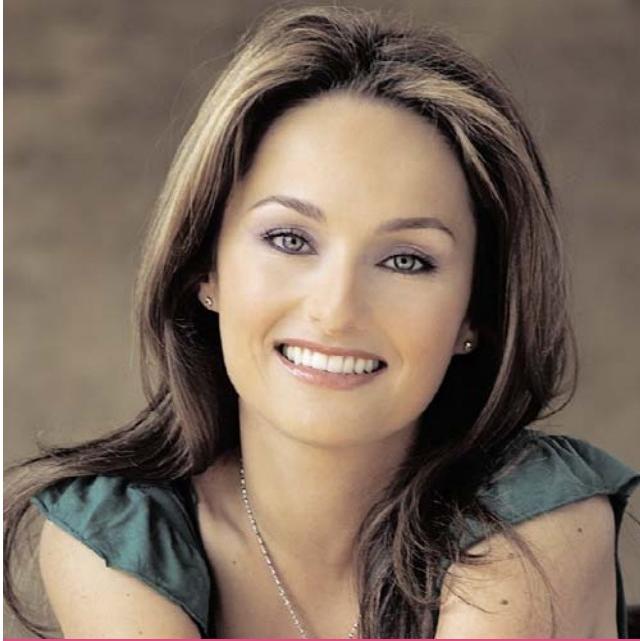
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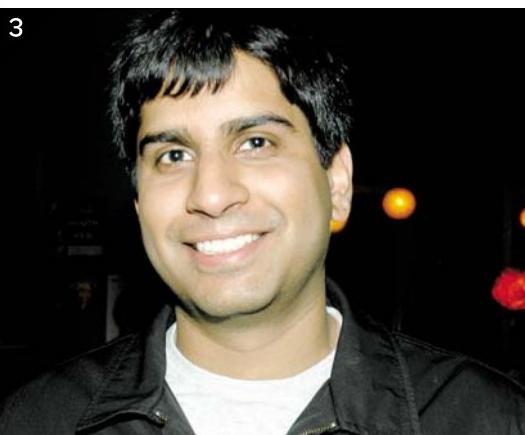
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Q What's your favorite spring activity?

CONTINENTAL | ROSSLYN | MARCH 25

1. "Chasing women in their beautiful sun-dresses," Murad Khan.
 2. "Looking for Obama," Antonia Cimini.
 3. "Biking on the towpath," Pramukta Kumar.
 4. "Monument-hopping at night," Azher Salikuddin.
 5. "Playing mandolin on the Potomac," Silvano Mercado.
 6. "Enjoying the [National] Cherry Blossom Festival," David Bilo-deau Cimini.
- ROBYN MINCHER AND HOLLY MORRIS

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ALYSSA LESSER

They're Still Boys From the Block

Local rockers Deleted Scenes are a band to keep an eye on. Not since the days of Fugazi and Dischord Records has a D.C. band caused such a stir on the national music circuit. It's no surprise, of course, since raising a ruckus is one of this band's specialties — whether it's at a house show in Mount Pleasant or onstage at the Black Cat. Give them a few years to develop, and this solid local act could become a heavy hitter in the national indie scene. This means that we, lucky devils that we are, can say we heard them back when. B.A.

→ *Black Cat*, 1811 14th St. NW; Sat., 9 p.m., \$12; 202-667-4490. (U St.-Cardozo)

dine&dash



Just Like Grandma Used to Make

ARE YOU SICK and tired of sushi and tapas? Had enough of light, refined food that invites terms such as "fusion" or even "molecular gastronomy"? You just need something back to basics that's quick enough for lunch during the workday. Is that so much to ask?

Cafe Assorti (1800 Wilson Blvd.; 703-465-0036), which opened a few weeks ago in Arlington, offers just the thing. The best description for the food is "hearty" — this is Kazakh cuisine, which involves a lot of cabbage, potatoes and meat. In other words, if you're going to eat there, it's best if you like pierogies.

The food is heavy and filling, the kind of thing you'd expect to find in an Eastern European grandmother's kitchen. Although there are exceptions to that rule — the Napoleon is light, airy and delicious, which is surprising, considering how utterly different it is from the rest of the food.

The decor, too, might throw you off: bright colors and generic tables give the restaurant almost a cafeteria feel — but, unlike your high school lunchroom, the mysterious pockets of meat and veggies are actually good.

Manager Ben Slocum says the cafe hopes to open an outdoor eating area in time for summer, and we expect the opportunity to sit outside under orange umbrellas sipping traditional Eurasian berry drinks will be irresistible to the businesspeople of Arlington. FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

top stops WEEKEND



COLIN S. JOHNSON

2 The Party Exhibit Forget dingy dives and yuppie-infested lounges — the hottest local nightspot this weekend is an art museum. Four times a year, the Hirshhorn Museum opens its doors until midnight for Hirshhorn After Hours, a shindig that features live music, DJs, art installations and, of course, a well-stocked bar. The always sold-out event brings together young night owls with the uber-chic art gallery crowd, and by this time, a cadre of devoted followers flock to every installment. This particular evening will feature upbeat tunes from Lumia Ensemble, Tleilaxu and Sean O'Neal (aka someone else). If you're going, don't forget to explore the museum's new(ish) exhibits — "Strange Bodies" and a Louise Bourgeois retrospective. B.A.
→ *Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden*, Independence Avenue and 7th Street SW; Fri., \$18, 8 p.m.; 202-633-1000. (Smithsonian)

5 Mournful Sounds

Glamour and punk collide in the uncooked, fresh-out-of-D.C. sounds of the rock 'n' roll trio Death by Sexy. Armed with a name snatched from an Eagles of Death Metal album and explicit lyrics about women, drinking and sex, Death by Sexy is your typical loud, angry, occasionally offensive death metal band. If sex, death and rock 'n' roll are what you're in the mood for, check out the band at its CD release party Friday at the Black Cat. t.h.
→ *Black Cat*, 1811 14th St. NW; Fri., 9 p.m., \$10; 202-667-7960. (U St.-Cardozo)



CAPITOL PICTURES

Manga, Manga, Manga

3 Washington is so weird. We welcome spring with a kite festival and an anime marathon. Next, you'll be telling us about some giant rabbit that lays eggs and might have pastel-colored fur. The Freer Gallery will show four anime films on Saturday, including



"Vexille," about a futuristic Japan that has cut itself off from the world. Tickets are free, and the films are short and lovely — if you can get over the guilt of spending a beautiful spring Saturday inside. f.z.

→ *Freer Gallery of Art*, Jefferson Drive and 12th Street NW; Sat., 11 a.m., free; 202-633-1000. (Smithsonian)

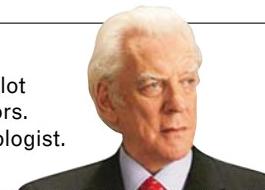
Going Gentle

We don't normally recommend mainstream movies here, but this one is

4 a little bit different. "The Edge of Love" is the story of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, who was brilliant, depressed and alcoholic. Sounds like a barrel of fun, right? Its weeklong engagement has been extended one more week. f.z.
→ *E Street Cinema*, 555 11th St. NW; through April 2, \$7.50-\$10; 202-452-7672. (Metro Center)

Television

THE DOCTORS ARE IN: Donald Sutherland is set to star on CBS' drama pilot "The Eastmans." The show revolves around a dysfunctional family of doctors. Sutherland will play the rogue and wealthy patriarch, a distinguished cardiologist.



ON TV THIS WEEKEND

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HER STORY (8 p.m., ESPN, Fri.) offers a group portrait of female athletes, including surfing phenomenon Bethany Hamilton, who returned to the sport after losing her arm in a shark attack in 2003.

AGING PAINS

Matt's grandmother suffers a setback on **FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** (9 p.m., NBC, Fri.).

FAULTY PLANS

Kate swears off men on the season 1 finale of **MISTRESSES** (9 p.m., BBC America, Fri.). Season 2 starts next Friday.

HORROR STORIES

DATELINE (10 p.m., NBC, Fri.) returns to its three-part exposé of America's economic woes with a look at consumer debt, out-of-control credit card companies and collection agencies that cross the line between diligence and



SMALL BUSINESS: Jill Scott is her own boss in "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency."

harassment.

WHAT THE KIDS ARE WATCHING

Bold-faced names worthy of a post-Oscar party turn out for the 22nd annual **KIDS' CHOICE AWARDS** (8 p.m., Nickelodeon, Sat.), honoring the entertainers of 2008

and courting the audience of tomorrow.

Nominees include Jim Carrey, Adam Sandler, Will Smith, George Lopez, Jennifer Aniston and Anne Hathaway. Dwayne Johnson hosts the 90-minute festivities.

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325 350 415 530) 600 625 730 800 825 850 950 100 1200 1105 1210

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG-13)

(950 1025 115 245 315 400 515 615 745 815 840 1005 1035 1100 1215 130 250 400 515 615 750 825 950 1050 1150 1250 135 260 410 515 615 775 900 1075 1175 1275 1375 140 270 420 520 620 785 950 1095 1195 1295 1395 140 280 430 530 630 795 965 1095 1195 1295 1395 140 290 440 540 640 805 975 1095 1195 1295 1395 140 300 450 550 650 815 985 1095 1195 1295 1395 140 310 460 560 660 825 995 1095 1195 1295 1395 140 320 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 330 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 340 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 350 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 360 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 370 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 380 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 390 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 400 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 410 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 420 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 430 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 440 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 450 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 460 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 470 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 480 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 490 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 500 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 510 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 520 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 530 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 540 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 550 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 560 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 570 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 580 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 590 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 600 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 610 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 620 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 630 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 640 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 650 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 660 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 670 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 680 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 690 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 700 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 710 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 720 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 730 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 740 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 750 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 760 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 770 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 780 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 790 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 800 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 810 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 820 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 830 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 840 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 850 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 860 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 870 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 880 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295 1395 140 890 500 600 700 865 1035 1195 1295 1395 140 900 470 570 670 835 1005 1195 1295 1395 140 910 480 580 680 845 1015 1195 1295 1395 140 920 490 590 690 855 1025 1195 1295

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AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22

Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria;

IMAX MONSTERS VS. ALIENS: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) (11:30 @ \$10), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

WATCHMEN: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R) 12:00 AM

DIGITAL 3D

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG) (10:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, 12:30)

12 ROUNDS (PG13) (10:00 @ \$6), 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 12:35, 2:20, 3:20, 4:55, 6:00, 7:45, 8:45, 10:20, 11:20

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) (10:00, 11:00 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 6:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:30, 11:30 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) (10:05, 11:05 @ \$6), 1:05, 2:05, 4:05, 5:05, 7:05, 8:05, 10:05, 11:05

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (11:25 @ \$6), 12:15, 2:05, 3:05, 4:40, 5:40, 7:20, 8:20, 9:55, 10:55, 12:25

KNOWING (PG13) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45, 12:35

KNOWING (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:25

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (11:15 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:00, 3:00, 4:35, 5:35, 7:15, 8:15, 10:00, 11:00, 12:40

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (10:55, 11:40 @ \$6), 1:40, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00

WATCHMEN (R) (11:20 @ \$6), 12:30, 2:55, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 10:05, 11:00

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) 12:05, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) 10:15 PM

TAKEN (PG13) (10:35 @ \$6), 12:15, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 12:25, 3:20, 6:15, 9:10, 11:55

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway

IMAX MONSTERS VS. ALIENS: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) (10:50 @ \$10), 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:05

DIGITAL 3D

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG) (10:00 @ \$9), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

12 ROUNDS (PG13) ✓ (11:00 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) ✓ (11:10 @ \$6), 12:20, 1:30, 2:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45, 10:50

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) ✓ (11:40 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) ✓ (10:00 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:10, 7:05, 9:55

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (10:20 @ \$6), 12:50, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00

KNOWING (PG13) (10:35 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (11:50 @ \$6), 2:40, 5:20, 8:10, 10:55

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (11:30 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:30

WATCHMEN (R) (11:20 @ \$6), 2:55, 6:30, 10:10

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) 7:30, 10:00

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:35

TAKEN (PG13) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:35

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.

DIGITAL 3D

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG) ✓ (12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45)

12 ROUNDS (PG13) ✓ (12:45, 7:15, 10:15)

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) ✓ (2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10)

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) ✓ (2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES)

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) ✓ (12:40, 2:00, 3:45, 5:00, 6:45, 8:00, 9:45, 11:00)

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (12:00, 1:20, 2:30, 4:00, 5:10, 6:30, 7:45, 9:15, 10:25)

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (12:45, 2:40, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15)

KNOWING (PG13) ✓ (1:15, 4:15, 7:05, 10:00)

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) 10:05 PM

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (12:05, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55)

WATCHMEN (R) (12:00, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20)

TAKEN (PG13) (12:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:45)

AMC SELECT

SUNSHINE CLEANING (R) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:35

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) (1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30)

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886

IMAX MONSTERS VS. ALIENS: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) ✓ (11:30 @ \$10), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00

DIGITAL 3D

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG) ✓ (10:00 @ \$9), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

12 ROUNDS (PG13) ✓ (10:10 @ \$6), 1:05, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) ✓ (10:40, 11:45 @ \$6), 12:25, 2:25, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 9:25, 10:25, 11:50

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) ✓ (10:45 @ \$6), 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) ✓ (10:05, 11:05 @ \$6), 12:55, 1:55, 3:50, 4:50, 6:40, 7:40, 9:45, 10:45

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (9:50, 10:55 @ \$6), 12:55, 1:40, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

KNOWING (PG13) ✓ (10:35 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35

KNOWING (PG13) (10:55 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:35, 12:20

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (11:25 @ \$6), 2:05, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (9:05, 10:05, 11:25 @ \$6), 12:40, 2:00, 3:25, 5:50, 7:05, 9:30, 11:50

WATCHMEN (R) (9:45 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:40, 8:10, 11:40

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:10, 10:20

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG13) (9:45 @ \$6)

TAKEN (PG13) (12:45, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 10:00, 12:20)

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

7850 Tysons Corner Center

DIGITAL 3D

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG) ✓ (11:00 @ \$9), 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

12 ROUNDS (PG13) ✓ (10:45 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:40, 7:45, 10:35

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) ✓ (10:10, 11:20 @ \$6), 12:35, 1:50, 3:10, 4:30, 5:05, 7:00, 8:15, 9:35, 10:40, 11:55, 12:55

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) ✓ (9:15, 10:00, 11:45 @ \$6), 12:25, 2:15, 3:00, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30, 12:05, 12:45 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) ✓ (10:30 @ \$6), 12:00, 1:25, 2:45, 4:20, 5:40, 7:25, 8:45, 10:15, 11:45 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) ✓ (10:20, 11:15 @ \$6), 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:25, 5:45, 7:15, 8:45, 10:15 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 3:45, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05, 11:05 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (10:20, 11:15 @ \$6), 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:25, 5:45, 7:15, 8:45, 10:15 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

KNOWING (PG13) ✓ (10:45 @ \$6), 1:15, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45, 11:45 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (11:15 @ \$6), 2:05, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (9:45, 10:45 @ \$6), 12:15, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45, 11:45 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

WATCHMEN (R) (12:05 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:40, 8:10, 11:40

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55

TAKEN (PG13) (10:05 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:05

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 2:10, 4:30, 7:15, 10:30

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) (10:10 @ \$6), 12:20, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) (10:00, 10:45 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:15, 3:10, 4:50, 6:30, 8:30, 9:05, 11:05 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:15, 3:10, 4:50, 6:30, 8:30, 9:05, 11:05 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (10:30, 10:45 @ \$6), 12:05, 1:30, 2:40, 4:05, 5:15, 7:05, 8:45, 10:15 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

KNOWING (PG13) (10:40 @ \$6), 1:10, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40, 11:40 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT (R) (10:20 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) (9:45, 10:45 @ \$6), 12:15, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45, 11:45 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

WATCHMEN (R) (10:10 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:40, 8:10, 11:40

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55

TAKEN (PG13) (10:45 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:50, 10:05

AMC SELECT

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) 2:10, 4:30, 7:15, 10:30

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) (10:10 @ \$6), 12:20, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) (10:00, 10:45 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:15, 3:10, 4:50, 6:30, 8:30, 9:05, 11:05 3D NOT AVAILABLE FOR THESE SHOWTIMES

DUPLiCiTY (PG13) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:15, 3:10, 4:50, 6:30,

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Activists Needed to Fight for Social Justice! Working America AFL-CIO is hiring in NOVA for organizers. \$10.42/hr + bens included. Call 703-237-1005 now. www.workingamerica.org	DRIVERS/LIMO - FT/PT \$13+/hr + tips. Knowledge of area, professional. Call 202-257-8833, TONY.	POLICY ANALYST The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is accepting applications for a Policy Analyst fluent in speaking, reading and writing Arabic. Responsibilities will include monitoring developments in U.S. foreign policy and conditions of religious freedom and related human rights in the Near Eastern region, with a specific focus on Iraq; developing policy recommendations to promote respect for human rights, including religious freedom, and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations; analyzing the successes and failures of U.S. policy; drafting briefing materials, reports, correspondence, and testimony; interacting with representatives of religious communities and other non-governmental organizations, State Department and other U.S. government officials, foreign delegations, and academic and other experts; preparing briefing materials; and organizing Commission missions abroad, private briefings, public hearings, and conferences. Regional experience and a graduate degree preferred. Please send cover letter and resumes to Jacqueline Mitchell: administration@uscirf.gov . For further information about the Commission visit our Web site at www.uscirf.gov . NO PHONE CALLS.	SALES: Rapidly growing Company seeking experienced Sales Professionals. Earn a substantial income. Call 301-782-3159	COASTAL INTERNATIONAL SECURITY - ARMED DHS/DC/MD/VA SITES Coastal International Security - Immediate FT/PT positions available @ all DC and VA locations. Wages from \$20.41 to 21.84 + \$3.25 to \$3.50 H&W, + pension and UMA. Annual CBA increases established. All candidates must be U.S. Citizen, Must have 60+ college credits, or Active or prior Military. Paid training provided. Current ICE 9mm,DHS card,CPR/FA/Baton credentials & suitability, DCIS/SPO/Maryland licenses, current at time of processing are highly desirable. Orientation date will be March 30th, 9am, 5200 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304, 703-751-9072 ext 15,14,12
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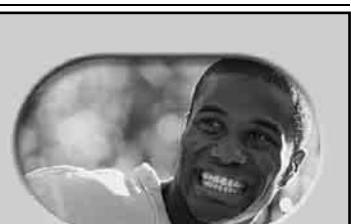
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Food

A 19th-century rabbi's matzo is still popular with American Jews

One of the world's top matzo manufacturers got started with a simple premise: "I'm going to bake matzos this year ... We'll see how it goes."

That's what 19th-century Rabbi Dov Behr Manischewitz is said to have told his wife after they arrived in America, Jewish immigrants from Lithuania struggling to survive — and to create something new.

In 1888, he founded the company that revolutionized production of the unleavened bread at the core of Jewish ritual meals, turning it into a mass-marketed, packaged product.

The weeklong Passover feast, starting at sundown on April 8 this year, marks the ancient Hebrews' hurried escape from Egypt, before their bread had time to rise. Hence, the flat, unleavened matzo.

“Dov Behr did for matzo what Henry Ford did for automobiles.”

YAAKOV HOROWITZ, RABBI

Manischewitz now is America's largest producer of processed kosher food, making not only its staple matzo but everything from salad dressing and low-calorie borscht to matzo ball mix and wasabi horseradish. The company was run by the family until 1990, when it was sold for \$42.5 million.

The Manischewitz wine ad slogan, "Man, oh, Manischewitz," even became so popular that Apollo 17 astronaut Gene Cernan was heard exclaiming it during his 1973 moonwalk.

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PASSOVER STAPLE: Rabbi Yaakov Horowitz oversees the production of matzo at the Manischewitz factory in Jersey City, N.J.

Man, Oh, Manischewitz

tion between the food we have for Passover and the wealth of Jewish culture that's behind it."

Alpern, 63, author of the book "Manischewitz, the Matzo Family: The Making of an American Icon," now lives in Switzerland, where she celebrates the holiday with matzo imported from France; she says Manischewitz is not available where she lives, in Geneva.

Dov Behr was not born a Manischewitz — some say he was an Abramson — and there are mysterious stories about how he took the new name. One version is that he purchased the passport of a dead man named Manischewitz to gain passage to America, another that he did it to avoid the 20-year military service required by the Russian czar.

Once here, Manischewitz plunged into an American balancing act: mixing technology with the spirit of Jewish ritual.

He started his production in Cincinnati, at first baking in his basement. But the young rabbi



FULL PLATE: Manischewitz is the largest U.S. producer of processed kosher food.

was ambitious, soon building a factory and introducing technology that came with the industrial revolution.

Fellow rabbis insisted that matzo be made as it always was — painstakingly by hand and in less than the 18 minutes it takes for the mixed batter to begin to rise, according to rabbinic law.

Instead, after the turn of the last century, the forward-looking rabbi created the matzo-making machines and replaced older coal stoves with gas-fired ovens. The finished product rolled onto conveyor belts and was packaged for shipment worldwide.

"Dov Behr did for matzo what Henry Ford did for automobiles,"

says Rabbi Yaakov Horowitz, who supervises all kosher operations for Manischewitz.

Dov Behr marketed his matzo by traveling to small towns and introducing himself to observant Jews. "He prayed alongside them, so they would see that the man behind the matzo was to be trusted," says Alpern.

After Dov Behr died in 1914, his five sons took over the business. The Manischewitz Company — now owned by Alabama-based Harbinger Capital Partners and smaller shareholders — has a new \$14 million matzo plant in Newark, N.J., that will ship more than 3 million boxes of kosher-for-Passover matzo this year.

The chief competitors are the kosher giant Streit's, plus several large companies in Israel as well as artisanal bakeries still making matzo the old-fashioned way.

Alpern, of course, prefers Manischewitz, "which really is at the center of Jewish culture in America."

VERENA DOBNIK (AP)

Lookout Online

express nightout

SOUND BETS

YaHoWha13's Return

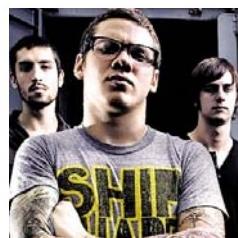
YaHoWha13 is a cult rock band — literally. Formed in Los Angeles in 1969 by Father Yod and the Source Family, the spontaneous psychedelic rockers have been revived by Source members Djin, Octavious and Sunflower Aquarian. Christopher Porter previews Friday's show at the Velvet Lounge. | COMING UP



BAGGAGE CHECK

Shearing Memories

Dr. Andrea Bonior says there's a reason you've lost track of those games of dodgeball: recent research suggests that as childhood gives way to adolescence, brain activity during sleep undergoes a series of changes, helping clear away superfluous information stored in childhood noggins. | ONLINE NOW



SOUND BETS

Scream Therapy

Christian metalcore band the Devil Wears Prada will be a headliner on the Warped Tour this summer, but its warm-up jaunt hits Ram's Head Live on Sunday. Christopher Porter spoke to Jeremy DePoyster about the group's album, "With Roots Above and Branches Below." | ONLINE NOW

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

DO YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR THE NFL TO ADD GAMES TO ITS REGULAR SEASON?

NO 60%

YES 40%



"Sure, why not?" But, more importantly, they should shorten the length of their TV broadcasts. Seriously: three hours of airtime to show a game with a regulation period of 60 minutes? Ridiculous!"

COMMENTER DIOPHENES, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR THE NFL TO ADD GAMES TO ITS REGULAR SEASON?"

66 No, unless they do it in some way that doesn't extend the season in terms of total calendar weeks."

COMMENTER KEVIN, WHO ADDED, "GET RID OF THE PRESEASON GAMES, THE BYE WEEK, NON-DIVISION WINNERS FROM THE PLAYOFFS."

66 Football is great precisely because the season is short. The anticipation and low supply make it in high demand."

COMMENTER TIM, WHO ADDED, "ALSO, THE SEASON AS IS ALREADY TAKES A TOLL ON PLAYERS. EXTENDING IT WOULD LIKELY INCREASE INJURIES."

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/POLLCENTER

>> EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM



"By verbally articulating the rules that govern its existence, is one not violating the first two rules of Fight Club?"

TOBYORNOTTOBYBLOG.COM ASKS THE AGE-OLD QUESTION ABOUT THE "TYLER DURDEN PARADOX" FROM THE 1999 MOVIE, IN WHICH RULES 1 AND 2 ARE "YOU DO NOT TALK ABOUT FIGHT CLUB."



"Not everybody agrees with my pro-renting stance. Despite the bajillions of homeownership pitfalls I outlined and every 'and then the entire place flooded' horror story I could think of, Little Sister bought a condo."

WHOINVENTEDROSES.COM PLANS TO RENT ALL HER LIVING SPACES UNTIL SHE MOVES INTO A RETIREMENT HOME.

"TAKE A PEEK into the creek next time you're jogging in Rock Creek Park and you'll see some nasty stuff. There is nothing more tragic than the sight of mallard ducks swimming to avoid oncoming litter."

CITYRENEWED.COM, PLANS TO ATTEND THE ROCK CREEK EXTREME MAKEOVER, AN EFFORT ORGANIZED BY THE FRIENDS OF ROCK CREEK'S ENVIRONMENT (FORCE).

"I am so impressed by how well the writers of 'Lost' have crafted and weaved intricate layers to fit together seamlessly this season."

KASSYK.WORDPRESS.COM HAS BEEN PLEASED WITH THE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THE ABC SHOW, ADDING, "THIS SEASON HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF SPECTACULAR."



Discussions

Personal Finance

Personal finance columnist **MICHELLE SINGLETARY** was online Thursday and hosted a discussion with Dave Kansas, author of "The Wall Street Journal Guide to the End of Wall Street as We Know It: What You Need to Know About the Greatest Financial Crisis of Our Time — and How to Survive It."

I'm a single mom with four kids, and I worry about being laid off. I've been using any extra cash I have to pay off debt, but should I be putting it in a savings account, instead, to use if I lose my job? Or do you recommend that I pay down my debt and use credit in the event I'm laid off?

I suggest you do both. Save and pay down debt. So, if you have, say, \$100

extra per month, put \$50 in savings and \$50 on the debt. And I would never recommend you live off credit, even if you are laid off. You just dig a bigger hole for yourself.

My husband recently argued to me that his large Stafford student loans are good for his credit score because they show an ability to pay down a large loan. Compared to not having the loan at all but all other things equal, is the Stafford student loan, which is not yet even in repayment, good for his credit score?

Seriously, he said that with a straight face? And you married this person? You poor dear. Tell him for me he's an idiot. OK, don't tell him that. It's mean. But no debt is good debt. He could have a great credit score with no student loan debt. Many people do. It's not carrying debt that gives you a good score, it's paying it off

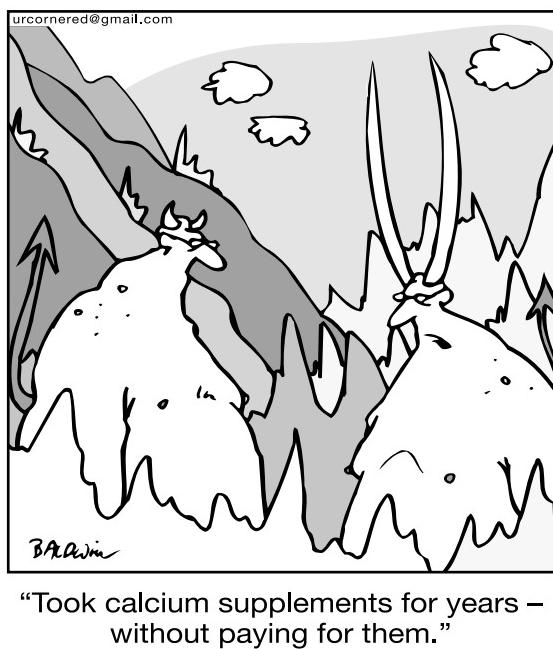
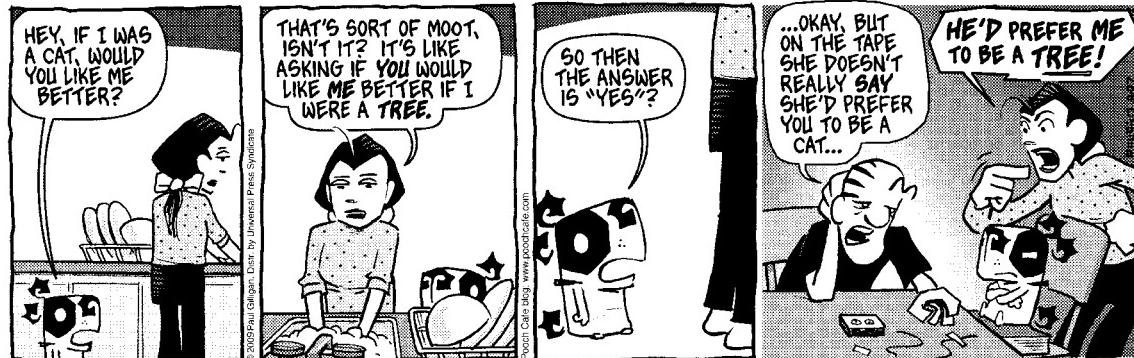
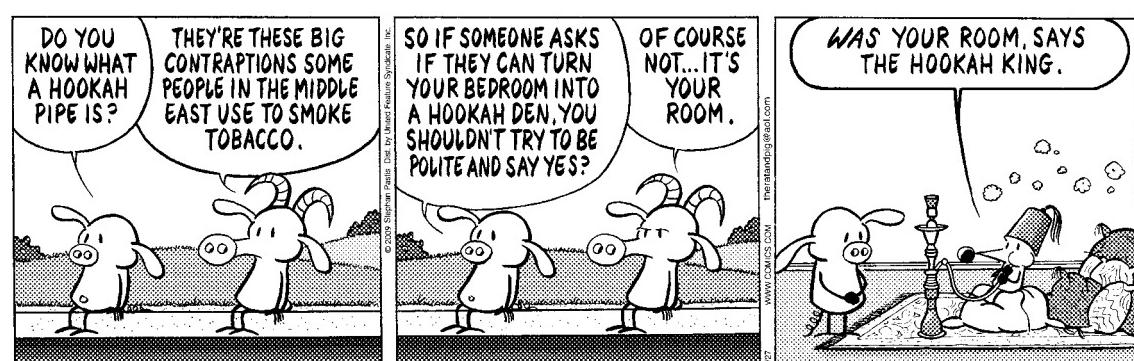
and on time. Most importantly, paying it on time. So, your husband is wrong, wrong, wrong. Good thing he married you.

Pundits pooh-pooh "money just sitting in the bank." Well, what's wrong with more people saving their money instead of the culture of "must consume all the time"? Anyway, don't the banks lend out our "save money"? And isn't that how things worked before fiat money?

Money sitting in the bank — building up savings — is a good thing. People didn't save very well until recently. Paying down expensive debt and establishing a rainy day fund make sense.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: Join Metro columnist John Kelly at noon to talk about things that go on in Washington that don't make the front pages. washingtonpost.com/discussions

LOOK out

Bizarro | Dan Piraro**Cornered** | Mike Baldwin**Pooch Cafe** | Paul Gilligan**Pearls Before Swine** | Stephan Pastis**The Duplex** | Glenn McCoy

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may feel as though you're waiting forever to get started. Be patient; thorough preparation leads to a more resounding success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't forget to get the final word from someone in charge before heading off on your own. You'll want to do things according to Hoyle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Others may not fully understand what you're going on about, and it may seem at times as though you're speaking in code.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're likely to run into many people from the old days, quite by chance. A trip down memory lane can actually prove profitable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may misinterpret certain signals early in the day, and the resulting confusion may have others unsettled and uncertain. Set things straight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may have

a chance to settle one or two pressing personal issues before you have to tend to the things another has assigned to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You'll have a chance to strut your stuff in a venue that is completely suitable to what you have to offer. You're flying high.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Popularity is not the be-all and end-all at this time. To be your best, you may not be able to please those around you—at first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) If you're going to speak your mind, you'll have to come to terms with the fact that not everyone will react favorably.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Opening the door to a new opportunity may involve an unseen risk. You have what it takes to rise above any serious dangers, however.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The familiar can give you great comfort, but to delve into that which is unfamiliar can provide you with unexpected satisfaction.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Something you've been after for some time can be yours, but you can't expect to get something for nothing. Can you pay up?



Michelle Kwan and coach Frank Carroll at the World Figure Skating Championships.

Today in History

1884 The first telephone line between Boston and New York is inaugurated.

1977 A KLM Boeing 747 attempting to take off, crashes into a Pan Am 747 on the Canary Island of Tenerife, killing 583 people.

1979 The Supreme Court rules 8-1 in Delaware v. Prouse that police could not stop motorists at random to check licenses and registrations unless there was reason to believe a law had been broken.

1999 Maria Butyrskaya of Russia wins the World Figure Skating Championships in Helsinki; defending champion Michelle Kwan of the United States finishes second.

2004 Nearly half a million people surround Taiwan's presidential office and block major streets to protest their country's disputed presidential election.

Corrections:

In Thursday's Weekend Pass, a photo of the pirate-metal band Alestorm was used instead of the Viking-metal band Tyr.

LOOK out

People



MATT SAYLES/AP

What? She just thinks guns are pretty.

DIRECT

Rihanna Masters Art of Sending Not-So-Subtle Hint

According to Usmagazine.com, **RIHANNA** has some new body art. New York City-based tattoo artist Bang-Bang said Thursday that he tattooed two guns on the singer's rib cage. Rihanna often wears a gun pendant around her neck. (EXPRESS)

EXHIBITS

Tom Selleck Visits D.C. to Unveil Traveling Memorial

TOM SELLECK visited Washington on Thursday to help unveil a traveling museum honoring Vietnam veterans called the Wall That Heals. The exhibit is taken to people who may not be able to visit D.C. (AP)

expressnightout

→ Find the latest celebrity news and photo evidence of stars' sordid lives at WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM.



EVAN AGOSTINI/AP

ADOPTION

Brangelina Envy

MADONNA is planning to adopt a second child from Malawi, officials said Thursday, but questions have already been raised about whether the pop star will face obstacles because of her single-mom status. A person in Malawi close to the case said Madonna, who is 50 and a mother of three, would be there this weekend and a court could hear her adoption case as soon as Monday. (AP)

COWARD

Pick on Someone Somewhere Close to Your Own Size

On Thursday, prosecutors charged a man with stalking "Dancing With the Stars" contestant

SHAWN JOHNSON, saying he drove from Florida in a car containing loaded guns, duct tape and love letters to meet the 17-year-old Olympic



She's too adorable for the whole guns and tape thing.

gymnast. The Los Angeles County district attorney's office charged Robert O'Ryan, 34, with one felony count of stalking and two misdemeanor counts of carrying a loaded gun in a vehicle. He was scheduled to appear for arraignment Thursday in Superior Court. (AP)

IN OTHER NEWS

Britney Spears Arrested for Having Circus in Carry-On

Grammy-nominated singer **WAYNA** has been arrested at a Houston airport after trying to get on a plane with a collapsible police baton that she uses while performing. Wayna was charged with possession of a



prohibited weapon on Wednesday. Security guards at the checkpoint at Bush International Airport discovered the 24-inch baton in the singer's carry-on bag. (AP)

INTERNAL MONOLOGUE

'I Made You, Carey, and, By Golly, I Can Break You!'

BOB BARKER visited **DREW CAREY** on "The Price Is Right" — and this time he was the showcase. The 85-year-old former game show host was invited to come on down to "The Price Is Right" to promote his upcoming memoir, "Priceless Memories," due out April 6. (AP)



Barker was nice to Carey on the outside.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Warmer; areas of morning fog

65°



Mostly cloudy with a bit of rain

47°



Cloudy, a little rain; cooler

56° / 51°



Breezy with some sun returning

63° / 39°



Sunny to partly cloudy and breezy

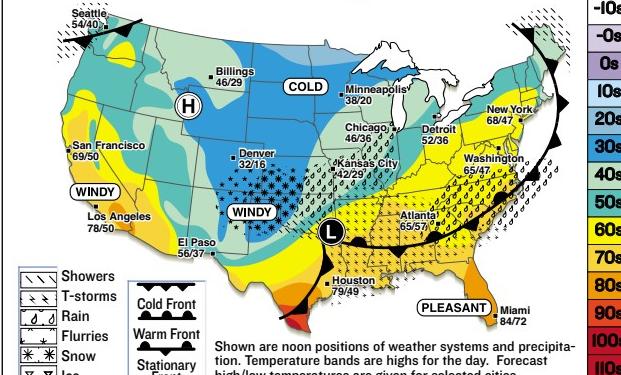
63° / 42°



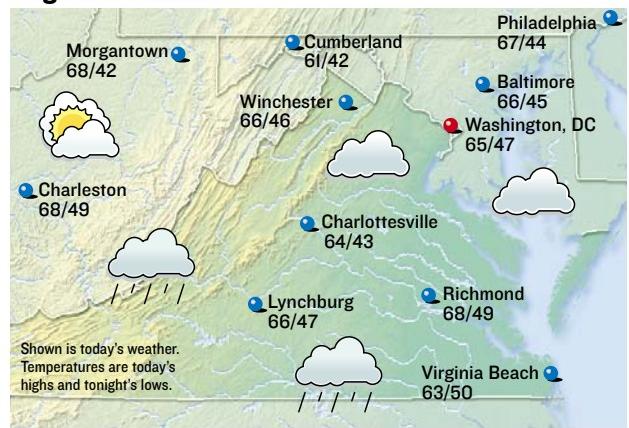
Clouds and sun, t-storms possible

62° / 45°

National Weather for Friday, March 27



Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	48°
Low	40°
Normal high	59°
Normal low	40°
Average humidity	88%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.19"
Month to date	1.06"
Normal month to date	3.06"
Year to date	4.09"
Last year to date	8.29"
Normal year to date	8.90"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, fog, partly sunny. High 65. Wind east 6-12 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, a little rain. Low 47. Wind east 4-8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:01 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:27 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:08 a.m.
Moonset today	8:58 p.m.



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Low	Sat. Hi/Low	City	Today Hi/Low	Sat. Hi/Low
Atlanta	65/57/r	70/46/t	Amsterdam	47/41/sh	45/39/sh
Boston	50/40/r	52/44/pc	Athens	57/45/pc	61/48/s
Chicago	46/36/c	44/29/r	Berlin	46/37/sh	45/34/r
Dallas	64/37/c	55/38/pc	Buenos Aires	82/64/s	88/68/s
Denver	32/16/pc	50/29/pc	Calgary	39/21/sf	35/20/c
Honolulu	81/69/pc	82/69/s	Dublin	46/37/r	45/36/sh
Los Angeles	78/50/s	82/54/s	Geneva	51/41/sh	42/35/r
Miami	84/72/s	86/72/s	Moscow	32/19/pc	36/23/pc
New York City	68/47/pc	53/43/r	Rome	59/44/pc	59/52/r
Orlando	84/66/s	87/68/s	Sydney	69/61/r	71/60/c
Seattle	54/40/c	48/38/r	Tokyo	48/39/pc	53/39/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Puzzles | Lookout

CROSSWORD | VOWEL MUTATION

ACROSS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Band of seven | 50 Thoroughly |
| 7 First of billions | 52 "J'Accuse" author |
| 11 16.5 feet | Zola |
| 14 "Rocky" villain | 53 Draped dress |
| 15 Andean city | 55 Little one |
| 16 Wax trapper | 56 Garb for the jet set |
| 17 Antic | 59 "___ Gotta Be Me" |
| 18 Yankee in the news, informally | 60 Walk with weariness |
| 19 Four-stringed instrument, for short | 61 Make-believe food |
| 20 Doc wannabes | 66 Fractional monetary unit of Japan |
| 23 Semiaquatic salamanders | 67 Water drainer |
| 27 Hobby-store buys | 68 "Foreign Affairs" writer Lurie |
| 28 Relatives of burrows | 69 Time zone on the west 75th meridian |
| 29 Balsamic, cider or white | 70 Cultivated grasses |
| 31 Seat for two or more | 71 Identifying |
| 32 Gain access |
DOWN |
| 33 Rub out | 1 "The Wild Bunch" director Peckinpah |
| 36 Always, in verse | 2 1972 DDT banner |
| 37 Perfectly halfway from either bank | 3 Container of peas |
| 40 Test starter? | 4 ICU specialty |
| 43 Sacred polyphonic song | 5 "Big Bad John" actor Jack |
| 44 Old photo tint | |

DOWN

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| DOWN | visitor |
| 1 "The Wild Bunch" | 31 180 degrees from |
| director Peckinpah | NNW |
| 2 1972 DDT banner | 34 66, for one (abbr.) |
| 3 Container of peas | 35 Conductor |
| 4 ICU specialty | Toscanini |
| 5 "Big Bad John" | 38 URL punctuator |
| actor Jack | 39 Satisfy, as |

SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

Last Week's Solution

7	2	8	3	1	9	6	4	5
4	5	9	6	7	8	3	2	1
1	3	6	4	2	5	9	7	8
5	7	4	9	8	6	1	3	2
9	8	1	2	3	7	4	5	6
2	6	3	1	5	4	7	8	9
3	1	7	5	6	2	8	9	4
8	4	2	7	9	1	5	6	3
6	9	5	8	4	3	2	1	7
			3	4	1	8	5	6
			6	2	8	3	7	9
			7	5	9	1	4	2
						5	8	3
6	1	5	7	8	9	4	3	2
4	8	9	2	3	5	1	7	6
2	3	7	4	6	1	9	8	5
1	7	3	5	2	8	6	4	9
5	6	2	3	9	4	7	1	8
8	9	4	6	1	7	5	2	3
3	4	6	1	5	2	8	9	7
7	2	8	9	4	6	3	5	1
9	5	1	8	7	3	2	6	4
4	8	3	1	2	5	6	7	9
1	2	5	6	7	9	3	4	8
7	9	6	3	4	8	5	2	1
5	3	2	7	9	6	8	1	4
8	1	4	5	3	2	7	9	6
9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5
6	7	1	2	5	4	9	8	3
3	6	7	1	2	5	4	9	8
2	4	8	9	6	3	1	5	7
7	9	1	8	2	5	3	4	6
3	5	6	1	7	4	9	8	2
2	4	8	6	9	3	7	1	5
7	9	1	8	2	5	3	4	6
4	1	2	3	5	8	6	9	7
6	3	5	9	1	7	8	2	4
8	7	9	4	6	2	1	5	3

express

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A crossword puzzle grid consisting of a 10x10 grid of squares. The grid contains several blacked-out squares, some forming a central black area. Numbered squares are distributed throughout the grid, with some numbers appearing more than once. The numbers are as follows:
Row 1: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Row 2: 14, 15, 16
Row 3: 17, 18, 19
Row 4: 20, 21, 22
Row 5: 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28
Row 6: 29, 30, 31
Row 7: 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
Row 8: 37, 38, 39
Row 9: 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47
Row 10: 48, 49, 50, 51
Row 11: 52, 53, 54, 55
Row 12: 56, 57, 58
Row 13: 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65
Row 14: 66, 67, 68
Row 15: 69, 70, 71

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

CLASSIC SUDOKU | HARD

		2		7
3		8	4	5 1
5			3 4	6
8		9		5
4	7	5		3
1	4	6	8	
	9		2	7

© 2020 by Zondervan

Yesterday's Solution

4	9	8	1	5	6	3	2	7
1	6	2	8	3	7	9	4	5
3	7	5	2	9	4	8	1	6
2	5	4	3	6	1	7	8	9
9	8	1	5	7	2	6	3	4
7	3	6	9	4	8	2	5	1
5	4	3	6	8	9	1	7	2
8	1	9	7	2	5	4	6	3
6	2	7	4	1	3	5	9	8

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com.

Need more Sudoku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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CondoLiving

APRIL 2009 | FEATURING WASHINGTON, MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA'S FINEST IN CONDOMINIUM LIVING CHOICES

express

A publication of **The Washington Post**



Livin' La Vida Logan

More eco-friendly condo buildings in a hot 'hood encourage locals to shrink their carbon footprints | **E2**



New Estate of Mind

Eco-minded agents help buyers find homes that are more energy-efficient | **E6**

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square

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CondoLiving

A Greener Demeanor

Logan Circle stays on top of the latest trends in eco-chic living and homes

Sure, there may be a downturn in the national housing market these days. But there are still a few neighborhoods where homes remain a hot commodity. D.C.'s Logan Circle is one of those beacons of light. It's still selling. And the centrally located commu-



nity boasts a number of new eco-friendly retail and residential developments, making it a great, green place to live.

With its burgeoning art and theater scenes, mix of sleek and funky home décor stores, the ever-popular Whole Foods Market, packed restaurants and bars, and a groovy vibe, Logan has the "It" factor.

"It is on the city grid, has great retail — from art galleries to mom-and-pop shops to Bang and Olufson — good Metro access, and historic

NATE LANKFORD/TVP



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS: Logan Circle residents and their canines socialize and exercise at the neighborhood's iconic park.

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architecture combined with modern design. And it's still a diverse, laid-back neighborhood," says Todd DeLorenzo, who moved into Logan Circle's new, eco-friendly Metropole condo building in November. "Name another neighborhood that offers that."

But what makes Logan Circle truly stand out is its confluence of old and new, history and hipness, tradition and transformation. The Circle itself is, to many, the most majestic in a city of circles, studded with imposing Victorian row-houses. The area also boasts some of the city's most exciting, innovative new architecture and design, from

In Logan Circle's newest condos: green rooftops and energy-efficient appliances.

starkly modern limestone and glass to weathered Victorian brick.

Logan Circle is also ahead of the green curve. If one of the quickest ways to shrink your carbon footprint is to ditch your car, then Logan Circle is intrinsically eco-friendly.

Logan Circle scores a whopping 98 out of 100 on the walkability scale on Walk Score (Walkscore.com), a Web site that ranks neighborhoods in 40 U.S. cities based on how walking-friendly they are and how easily their residents can live "car-lite" lifestyles.

DeLorenzo says Logan Circle makes it easy to go green. "I drive a Prius, but since I've lived in the Metropole, I think I've taken it out only a couple of times," says DeLorenzo, 38, who is chief of staff in the executive office of the chairman and CEO at the Motion Picture Association of America. "I walk or Metro everywhere. It doesn't get more green than that."

To meet the demand for eco-living in the neighborhood, condo developers and designers have been incorporating green features into their newest multi-story loft and condo buildings (in which units generally start in the \$400s), including sustainable materials, energy-efficient HVAC equipment and appliances, high-performance glass, and

CONTINUED ON E4



TASTE FOR CHANGE: The Whole Foods Market on P Street has been credited with helping transform Logan Circle from an underused neighborhood into an innovative one.

HOT SPOTS

Logan Circle is bounded by S Street to the north, Mass. Ave. to the south, 9th Street to the east and 16th Street to the west, according to the Logan Circle Community Association. Many of its popular destinations and amenities also contribute to the green scene.

Public transportation

METRO: In addition to several bus lines, four Metro stops are within walking distance: **U STREET** (Green and Yellow lines); **MT. VERNON SQUARE** (Green and Yellow lines); **DUPONT CIRCLE** (Red Line); and **MCPHERSON SQUARE** (Blue and Orange lines).

ZIPCAR: Logan Circle has 12 locations where vehicles in the car-sharing program are parked.

SMARTBIKE: D.C.'s new self-service public bike rental program has a rack near the intersection of 14th Street and Rhode Island Avenue NW.

Groceries

WHOLE FOODS MARKET: Stock up on organic eats (1440 P St. NW; 202-332-4300).

Fitness/recreation

LOGAN CIRCLE: Where residents and their dogs get exercise the old-fashioned way (playing Frisbee, jogging, etc.).

VIDA FITNESS: A gym inside the Metropole building (1517 15th St. NW; 202-588-5559).

BODYSMITH TRAINING GYM (1622 14th St. NW; 202-772-0001).



Halo, a straight-friendly gay bar, is a popular destination for happy hour.

Dining

POSTO: You may have to endure a long wait to get a table at this trendy Italian eatery (1515 14th St. NW; 202-332-8613).

CORK WINE BAR: The brainchild of Logan Circle residents Diane Gross and Khalid Pitts, Cork offers small plates and an extensive wine list (1720 14th St. NW; 202-265-CORK).

RICE: A sleek Thai restaurant that's moderately priced (1608 14th St. NW; 202-234-2400).

Bars

LOGAN TAVERN: An inexpensive neighborhood restaurant and bar (1423 P St. NW; 202-332-3710).

HALO: A straight-friendly gay bar (1435 P St. NW; 202-797-9730).

STONEY'S: Nosh on bar food such as grilled cheese and chili dogs (1433

P St. NW; 202-234-1818).

→ **HELIX LOUNGE:** A hip hotel bar (1430 Rhode Island Ave. NW; 202-234-1454).

Entertainment

→ **STUDIO THEATRE:** Take in live theater (1501 14th St. NW; 332 3300).

→ **VEGAS LOUNGE:** Regularly hosts blues shows and dancing (1415 P St. NW; 202-483-3971).

Galleries

→ There are four galleries at 1515 14th St. NW, including: **G FINE ART** (202-462-1601), **ADAMSON GALLERY** (202-232-0707) and **HEMPHILL FINE ART** (202-234-5601).

→ Other notable spaces include **TRANSFORMER GALLERY** (1404 P St. NW; 202-483-1102), **GALLERY PLAN**

B (1530 14th St. NW; 202-234-2711) and **IRVINE CONTEMPORARY** (1412 14th St. NW; 202-332-8767).

Retail

FUTURE GREEN: Stocks organic, nontoxic gifts, clothing, home furnishings and fair-trade goods (1469 Church St. NW; 202-234-7110).

MULEH: Shop for modern Asian home furnishings and furniture made from renewable organic materials (1831 14th St. NW; 202-667-3440).

GARDEN DISTRICT: Two shops sell nursery and gardening supplies for both inside the home and outdoors (1520 14th St. NW; 202-797-0657; 1801 14th St. NW; 202-797-9005).



RIDE ON: Logan Circle is home to one of D.C.'s first SmartBike rental stations.

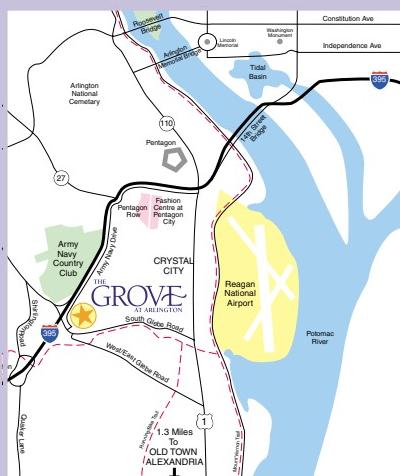


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KEVIN CLARK/TWP
STYLISH AND SUSTAINABLE: The Metropole hosted a glitz opening party last fall.

Greener Demeanor

CONTINUED FROM E3

green roofs. They're finding a steady stream of customers attracted by those features, too.

Case in point: the Metropole, an environmentally friendly building located at 15th and P streets NW, in which the prices of the 90 condo units range from \$450,000 to \$2.1 million. The Metropole is slated for completion this spring, and 25 occupants already call it home.

The high-end units in the building are selling particularly briskly, says DCRealEstate.com's CEO, Ken Johnson, whose company is marketing the Metropole. Two recent contracts in the "slice of South Beach in Logan Circle" exceeded \$1.9 million apiece, Johnson says.

Metropole resident DeLorenzo gushes about the building's "amazing detail," and its eco-friendly features such as large expanses of glass to bring in natural light, high-efficiency boilers and Energy Star appliances, including Bosch water-conserving washing machines. "I think it is smart construction for today's living, designed with the future in mind," DeLorenzo says.

New green condo units are also up for sale at Lofts 11 (1125 11th St. NW), a nine-story brick and glass building featuring 27 units, including a \$1 million-plus penthouse with a private elevator. Currently, there are several units for sale in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range, says Gail Montplaisir, the president of Lofts 11 developer and marketer Taurus Development Group.

Like the Metropole, Lofts 11 features innovative, sustainable design. Its roof is 70 percent green, Mont-

plaisir says, which means its rooftop vegetation reduces rainwater runoff and increases energy efficiency.

Inside each unit, tinted windows and screening devices block out the heat of the sun. The devices also reduce the need for heat during daylight hours, Montplaisir says. Kitchen cabinets in each condo —

**There has been
room for new,
innovative
construction that
still maintains a
sense of history."**

TONY HAIN, REAL ESTATE AGENT

which are traditionally constructed using formaldehyde and toxic glues — were instead custom-built using wheatboard and nontoxic glues and faced with recycled bamboo. And countertops are made from either recycled plastics or recycled glass. As a whole, Lofts 11 offers "great design that makes people smile when they live there," Montplaisir says. "People come for the design."

With its thriving real estate market and increasingly green-minded community, it's hard to imagine that Logan Circle was once considered dangerous. "When I moved into my house in 1991, I was told never to walk toward 14th Street because I would be harassed by the prostitutes," recalls resident Keith Eby, 41, a marketing consultant. "I used to find needles, packets of drugs, empty liquor bottles and condoms in my parking space all of the time. I don't see much of

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that anymore."

Logan Circle went into serious decline after the 1968 race riots, and the area lay dormant for decades as businesses and residents packed up and moved to suburbs. "Many properties had fallen into disrepair or had actually fallen down," recalls Tim Christensen, 52, a consultant and at-large member of the Logan Circle Community Association Board of Directors. But trend-

If ditching your wheels shrinks your carbon footprint, then 'car-lite' Logan Circle is intrinsically green.

setting developers, architects and pioneering residents saw an opportunity in the rubble. One by one, vacant or underused lots have been reclaimed and redeveloped.

"Because the area wasn't — and still isn't — completely 'established,' there has been room for new, innovative construction that still maintains a sense of history," says Tony Hain, associate broker and founder of the Art of City Living group at Long & Foster.

And then, of course, there's the Whole Foods factor. When the organic food mecca opened its doors on P Street in 2000, Logan Circle became a veritable breeding ground for design-minded developers and retailers.

"Whole Foods was the catalyst, the icing on the cake. It attracted a wave of new interest in the area," explains Bill Bonstra, the founder and managing partner of Bonstra Haresign Architects. Bonstra designed the newly completed Citta 50 (1450 Church St. NW), which features one- and two-bedroom condo units with bamboo floors. The 27-unit building currently has 16 condos for sale, priced from the low \$400s to \$1.2 million.

Even as it attracts newcomers, Logan Circle has retained its own identity, residents say.

"It is a strong community and a diverse community," says Christensen. Logan is a "little village within a big city. You can't really walk around without seeing people you know." CATRIN MORRIS



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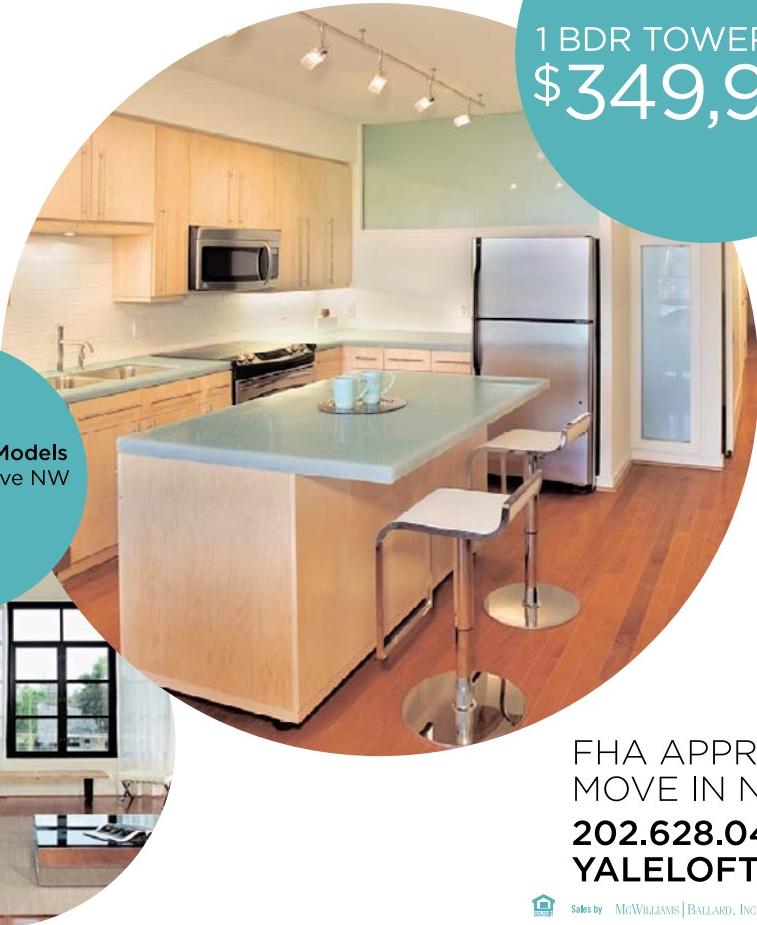
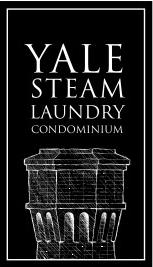
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GREEN QUEEN: An EcoBroker helped Laura Tache renovate her Dupont condo.

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Rising energy costs. Skyrocketing foreclosures. A glut of homes that just won't sell — despite sinking prices.

The outlook sounds bleak for both buyers and sellers, but Realtor Michael Kiefer sees a silver lining in all of that — a green lining, to be precise. As people tighten their belts and try to live frugally, property that's eco-friendly is becoming hot. Green real estate — which includes energy-efficient design, cost-saving appliances and long-lasting Earth-friendly or recycled materials — is increasingly sought, Kiefer says.

"This housing crisis has people thinking more closely about their utilities and being more conscious about how they operate a home," says Kiefer, 34, who in 2006 founded Green D.C. Realty (GreenDCRealty.com; 240-481-5041), an environmentally minded brokerage affiliated with Keller Williams Capital Properties.

Kiefer is an example of a new breed of real estate agents, professionals who have earned special credentials as experts in eco-friendly homes. Though there are currently only a handful of "green" real estate agents working in the District, the ranks of these planet-conscious pros are growing.

"When I started out four years ago [advocating green real estate], people would say 'Green what?'" says Kiefer. Now, however, homeowners know enough to not

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KITCHEN AID: Tache's kitchen features countertops made from sustainable material.

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Kiefer boosted his green smarts by becoming trained and certified as an expert in sustainable and environmentally friendly design by EcoBroker International (Eco-Broker.com) in 2006. EcoBroker has been certifying professionals since 2002 through its courses in topics such as solar thermal ener-

Green Realtors are convinced homeowners can add value to their properties with eco-friendly design and materials.

gy, environmentally friendly paints and window finishings. In November 2008, the 1.3 million-member-strong National Association of Realtors launched its own Green Designee program (Greenresourcecouncil.org) to educate Realtors in green property and practices. Both the NAR and the EcoBroker programs require 18 hours of training; EcoBroker's is completely online; NAR's requires some in-person course work.

Finding a Realtor with one of
CONTINUED ON E8

SHOP TO IT

Healthier Homes

Interested in completing your own green renovation? Check out some of these local businesses to score sustainable and energy-efficient goods.

→ **AMICUS GREEN BUILDING CENTER** (Amicusgreen.com; 4080A Howard Ave., Kensington, Md.; 301-571-8590) sells everything from marmoleum and cork flooring to eco-friendly painting supplies and green finishes.

→ **COMMUNITY FORKLIFT** (Communityforklift.com; 4671 Tanglewood Drive, Edmonston, Md.; 301-985-5180) recycles and resells rescued hardware from about-to-be-demolished buildings.

→ **ECO-GREEN LIVING** (Eco-greenliving.com; 6201 Blair Road NW; 202-234-7110) sells green, organic and fair-trade home decorations and renovation supplies.

→ **GREATER GOODS** (Greatergoods.com; 1626 U St. NW; 202-449-6070) stocks Earth-friendly cleaning products, insulation supplies, solar devices and more.

→ **SECOND CHANCE INC.** (Secondchanceinc.org; 1645 Warner St., Baltimore; 410-385-1101) rescues and resells architectural salvage from old buildings, including vintage fixtures, marble fireplaces, lumber and antique furnishings.

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CondoLiving



EASIER ON THE EARTH: Updating to an Energy Star refrigerator helps save energy.

Green Teams

CONTINUED FROM E7

these green certifications is still relatively rare in the greater Washington area. Ten D.C.-based agents hold EcoBroker certifications, according to a mid-March search on EcoBroker.com. Nearby Maryland suburbs had about eight EcoBrokers, and Virginia suburbs had at least a dozen EcoBrokers, EcoBroker.com searches showed.

Courtney Poulos, a Realtor with the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage-affiliated Reishman Group in Dupont Circle, was the only local Realtor who had been certified by the NAR as a green designee by mid-March, according to NAR's Green Resource Council.

Poulos, 31, had already become an EcoBroker in 2007 but says she wanted to learn even more about green residential properties. The NAR's program taught her more about topics including "green communities, smart growth and design, public awareness and utilities, water consumption, efficiency, vendors and energy audits," says Poulos, who manages a Web site and blog about local green real estate at Greenlivinganddesign.com.

"There are two reasons to go green in this market," Poulos says. "One is to save money on your utility bills." Small tweaks such as insulating a water heater or adding extra insulation to leaky walls can help homeowners save \$40 or \$50 per

month, Poulos says.

The second reason to make a home more energy-efficient is simply to improve its desirability on the market down the road. "Buyers want to save money [on utilities], too," Poulos says, noting that Montgomery County recently passed a disclosure

Small tweaks such as adding insulation to leaky walls can save homeowners \$40 or \$50 per month.

sure law that requires the sellers of owner-occupied homes to provide utility bills as part of their disclosure package to potential buyers. "If that's not proof of awareness of utility costs and energy in the real estate market, I can't imagine what is."

"Even having a really nice, modern kitchen that has taken indoor air quality or the environment into consideration ... is a great selling point," Poulos says. "People will pay a little bit more for that in the property."

Despite their small ranks, green Realtors find themselves in demand locally. Kiefer says green real estate has become something that "the public at large is very much inter-


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CondoLiving



GO WITH THE FLOW: Laura Tache's dual-flush toilet helps her conserve water.

ested in" — and the recession has made people especially eager to curb energy costs.

"This is by and large consumer education," Kiefer says. "It's just outlining some simple strategies" for going easier on the Earth. Some of Kiefer's cost-saving tips include lowering the hot water heater's thermostat and activating the dishwasher's energy setting.

Besides promoting green lifestyle

ties of what to do and what not to do. I've learned a lot in the process."

Tache, 40, who works for the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools in Falls Church, Va., added to her kitchen materials that are biodegradable or produced from recycled materials. She installed a red Silestone countertop and covered her floors in a natural linoleum called marmoleum. She also replaced her old refrigerator, dishwasher and oven with Energy Star appliances, which meet energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy. And in the bathroom, she replaced a standard toilet with a dual-flush model that uses less water.

"It's a cleaner environment for me," Tache says. "It benefits me first, and then the environment. The products are a little more expensive than the traditional products, but not by much. If you think it over, in a few years, you can earn [the costs of green renovations] back in savings."

Capitol Hill couple HyoJung Kim and Seth Garland bought their three-bedroom rowhouse through Kiefer and consulted him before beginning a complete renovation of their new place. Taking advantage of the District Department of Energy's ongoing program

CONTINUED ON E10

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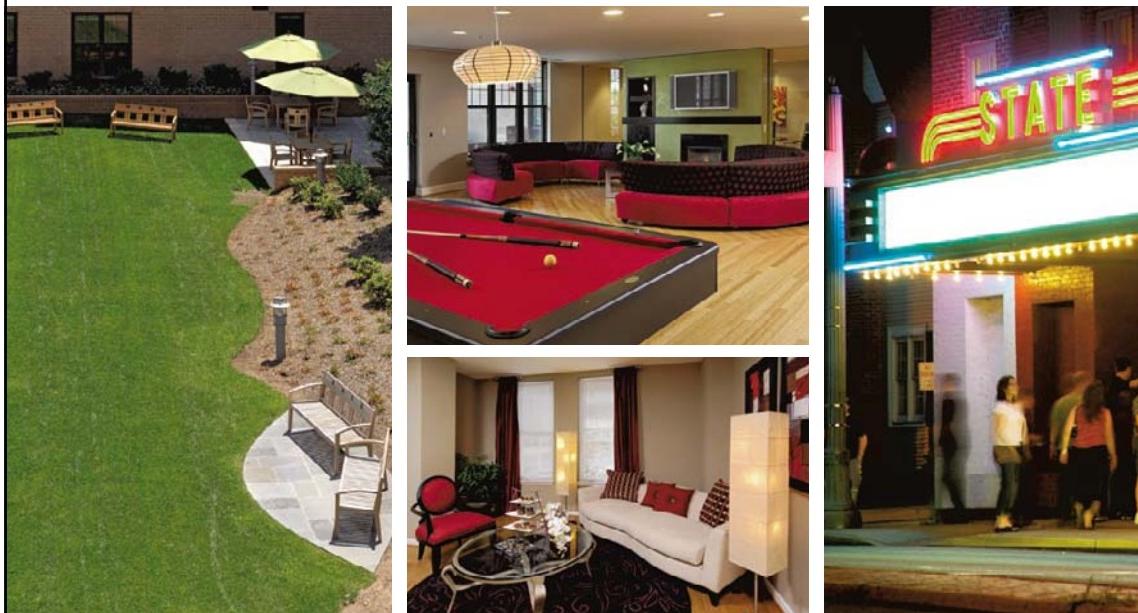
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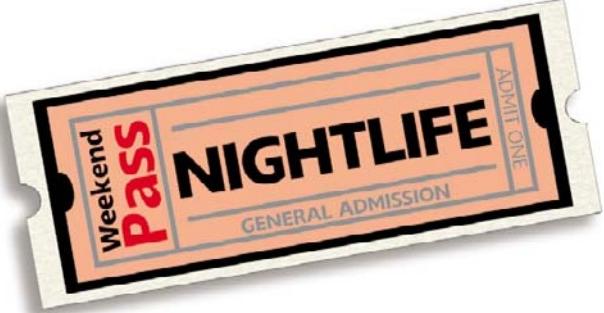


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CondoLiving



HOT AMENITY: Tache's Energy Star convection oven meets EPA guidelines.

Green Teams

CONTINUED FROM E9

that offers owners of single-family townhouses and rowhouses free energy audits (for more information, call 202-673-6700, or visit Ddoe.dc.gov), the couple were able to identify leaks in their new home's insulation. Then, they patched those leaks with a spray foam insulation in their attic and rigid foam insulation in their walls. They also replaced most of their windows to block out thermal energy that could overheat their home during summer months, and added a dual-flush toilet, Energy Star appliances, high-efficiency lighting and low-flow sink and shower fixtures.

Kim and Garland think their efforts at energy efficiency have lowered their utility bills considerably in the long run. While their neighbors who live in similarly sized homes were complaining about monthly gas bills of up to \$500 this winter, Kim and Garland say their bill topped out around \$150 per month.

"That's a pretty clear sign to us that the changes we made have had a sizable effect," says Garland, 38, an architect.

Since both Garland and Kim are conscious of their green footprints (both have received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design professional accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Certification Institute), they also tried to use sustainable materials in their home. They covered their floors with bamboo, instead of more conventional types of wood.

"Bamboo is a fast-growing material," explains Kim, 35, an urban

planner. "It's environmentally much more friendly than the wood you'd cut from the forest."

Kiefer is convinced that homeowners can add value to their property with green materials and design. "Energy efficiency is starting to have that consumer appeal," Kiefer says. "Your property has to stand out. It has to have

Despite their small ranks, green Realtors are in demand locally.

value to the buyer other than just the sales price. When you come in with both a good price and touting the Energy Star appliances, low-VOC paints [which release fewer toxins into the air] and compact fluorescent lighting throughout the house," those factors contribute to faster sales.

And as for eco-friendly properties' contributions to the planet? It might not be a top priority in buyers' or sellers' minds, says Poulos, but it's still a meaningful consequence of participating in the green real estate movement.

"I think that we can all individually make a difference," Poulos says. "So, even if you're looking at green real estate as a selfish investment, you're contributing less to energy demand and being a responsible consumer. If individuals start making informed, responsible choices, they can make an impact." KATIE ABERBACH (EXPRESS)

CondoLiving



HEIGHT OF STYLE: Full-length curtains can make a living room look much nicer.

Shelving To Shades

Tips for displaying art, baby-proofing floors and picking the right curtains

Post Home section staffers **JURA KONCIUS** and **TERRI SAPIENZA** offer advice on your decorating dilemmas.

I'm in the market for some kind of wall display — decorative shelving on which I can put knickknacks and photos. I would love some ideas about where to find good products. I have a couple of very narrow shelves (just a couple of inches deep) in my living room that I got at the Container Store that house a variety of little knickknacks from my travels. I love them. Another resource: Exposuresonline.com.

Talk to me about Elfa shelving. Our tiny house needs some storage options, especially in our closets, and I saw that Elfa is on sale. How well does it work?

I bought Elfa shelving for my son to use in his college dorm, and he loves it. Many, many people swear by it, and the installation isn't as hard as you might think. The consultants at the Container Store for the Elfa products can walk you through the process.

My 100-year-old parquet floors are prone to popped nails. Now that I have a crawling child, more is at stake than just my socks. Any advice for securing the nails that work their way up?

You might want to have a contractor or a flooring expert come and examine your floors to see what is causing this. You definitely want to have the problem addressed with a crawling child around! Ouch!

Can you please give some guidelines for the appropriate length for curtains? Our windows all have radiators under them, so I thought it best to purchase curtains that would fall beneath the sill of our 63-inch windows (i.e., not cover the radiators). Now that they are hung, though, they look oddly short.

I think you should have gone with full-length. If you are using the curtains for decoration only, then they could remain pushed to the side and not touch the radiators. But, I assume that you need to actually use the curtains. In that case, I suggest you hang full-length curtains and maybe some inexpensive woven shades, too.



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